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Advocacy group for US territories touches base with CNMI. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

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PH inclusion sought in Guam-NMI visa waiver

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Philippines Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri and his colleagues have introduced a resolution that urges the U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs to push for the Philippines' inclusion in a proposed Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program—a development that Guam Delegate James C. Moylan (R-Guam) is thankful for.

Moylan

See PH on Page 4

USCG tows distressed vessel off Pagan

By SARA MUIR
U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia / Sector Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—In response to a distress call from the operator of the 39-foot motor vessel *Mama Loling* on Aug. 30, reporting the engine overheating, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam Joint Rescue Sub-Center watchstanders coordinated a search and rescue operation resulting in a tow by the USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) and the vessel arriving safely to Saipan in the care of the CNMI Department of Pub-

See USCG on Page 4

The crew of the 39-foot motor vessel *Mama Loling* takes a moment for a photo with Lt. Patrick Dreiss, commanding officer, aboard the USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) while the vessel is in tow from Pagan to Saipan on Sept. 1, 2023. Following a distress call Aug. 30, the Frederick Hatch crew responded delivering the crew and the vessel arriving safely to Saipan in the care of the CNMI Department of Public Safety.
U.S. COAST GUARD

MARIANAS HISTORY CONFERENCE

History talks attempt to heal the NMI's 'wounds'

Keynote speaker Donald Mendiola shares with the audience the practice and culture of traditional medicine during the Marianas History Conference's opening night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan. CHRYSTAL MARINO

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Close to 300 individuals gathered at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Friday for the opening night of the 6th Marianas History Conference in the CNMI., which was being hosted by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

According to NMHC executive director Leo Pangelinan, there were actually 350 registered guests and nearly all of them were in attendance that

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Airline Incentive Program suspended

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board has suspended its Airline Incentive Program in order to keep all CNMI airports open, and the decision could signifi-

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'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

26

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BUSINESS
Enterprise Rent-A-Car Saipan and Cebu are recently awarded the Exceptional Achievement Award.
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ASIA
Taiwan suspends flights and classes, as the island prepares for the arrival of Typhoon Haikui.
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LIFE & STYLE
Backstreet Boys' Nick Carter is facing civil suits in Las Vegas, alleging sexual assault decades ago.
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Local

Kilili: Lower drug prices for seniors

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said over the weekend that seniors in the Marianas can look forward to lower drug prices for key medications following the announcement by the Biden administration last week of the first 10 drugs that will have their prices negotiated by the Medicare program.

Sablan said in his *e-kilili* newsletter that included in this are Eliquis and Xarelto, used for prevention and treatment of blood clots, and the diabetes drugs Jardiance, Farxiga, Fiasp, and Januvia.

He said the Inflation Reduction Act, passed by the U.S. Congress last year, ended the long-standing ban on Medicare negotiating fair market prices with drug manufacturers.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, which was signed into law by Biden in August 2022, aims to help the U.S. meet its climate goals and strengthen energy security, invest in America to create good-paying jobs, reduce energy and health care costs for families, and make the tax code fairer.

Sablan said negotiations begin this year and new prices will become effective in 2026.

He said 15 more drugs will be added in 2027, another 15 in 2028, and up to 20 more drugs for each year after that.

Sablan said other provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act benefitting Medicare enrollees include capping insulin costs at $35 per month, removing cost-sharing for vaccines, and limiting out-of-pocket costs under the Medicare Part D prescription drug program to $2,000 beginning in 2025.

Nationwide, some nine million seniors are enrolled in Medicare Part D.

Bill allocates $1.93M poker fee revenue

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation passed Thursday a local bill that seeks to appropriate $1.93 million in poker fee revenue to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program, Saipan Mayor's Office, Office of the Attorney General, and other agencies.

With all 18 SNILD members present at the session voting "yes" to pass House Local Bill 23-24, the legislation now goes to the governor for action.

Before the voting, Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), who is the principal author of the legislation, offered floor amendments to the bill. The members adopted the amendments.

With respect to the proposed allocation of $50,000 to the Office of the Attorney General for its Criminal Division, Attao said the OAG requested that the money be used specifically for improvements. Attao said the amendment should now reflect that $50,000 for the OAG will pay for improvements at the Criminal Division Office in Susupe to improve and make safe the common walkways and pavilions linking the offices of the Criminal Division, and for painting expenses. Attao said the funding shall not be used for personnel operation expenses.

Attao also explained the other technical amendments.

Under the local bill, which is co-sponsored by several other lawmakers, $1.55 million will be appropriated to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program, with $250,000 to be reserved for SHEFA personnel and operations; $100,000 to the Saipan Mayor's Office for personnel and/or operations; $50,000 for the Northern Islands Mayor's Office personnel and/or operations; $50,000 for the Saipan Human Society Inc., $75,000 for the Saipan Zoning Office; and $60,000 for the Department of Corrections' rehabilitation and upgrade of the Juvenile Detention Section.

May this Labor Day be a time of rest and rejuvenation for all workers, no matter where they work.
HAPPY
LABOR
DAY
From the Management & Staff of
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Flores asks for patience during transition

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The newly appointed interim education commissioner, Donna Flores, begs for "everyone's indulgence as we go through this transition."

In an interview with Flores at the Office of Special Education building on Capital Hill last Friday morning, she said she said she is going do her best as education chief of the CNMI Public School System.

"For those that do know me. I put in 100%, she added.

When asked how she reacted upon receiving the news, Flores said she was surprised to receive the call from Board of Education chairman Antonio L. Borja on the night after the emergency board meeting.

…I am truly flattered and humbled to hear that they recognize the hard work that goes into special ed and that, despite the obvious challenges being experienced, not only here in the CNMI, but also nationwide, we continue to persevere," said Flores, who is the Special Education Program director of PSS.

She did say it was a bit difficult for her at first to accept the new role as interim education chief because her role in special education already requires

Flores

"it's a lot of hard work and it's a lot of heart work."

Along with that is "whatever comes from the community. I'm sure not everyone will be happy or the expectations are very high, but I just want to ensure the smooth transition of PSS so we can focus on what we're doing, which is a safe learning environment and opportunities for students."

But, she said, she was assured that her appointment is only temporary.

The BOE's appointment of Flores as interim education commission went into effect last Sept. 2. This comes soon after Dr. Alfred B. Ada resigned from the position almost two weeks ago due to health reasons.

Flores thanked Ada for his commitment to the CNMI Public School System. "His heart truly is with the students. And, although he weathered a few storms during this time as commissioner of education, I must say he was also instrumental in making PSS shine and be commended nationally. We wish him good health and peace of mind as he continues on his path to recovery.

"Let's just move forward with what we're doing. The board did this because they wanted a smooth transition. So, it's really up to us, the community, to allow for that process to happen. And I really think good outcomes will come to us, so long as we're all together," she added.

Flores said she does not intend to apply for the education commissioner position and plans to resume as Special Education director when the board has filled the role.

Borja said the job vacancy announcement for education commissioner will be posted this week.

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USA Fanter seeks to join writ of execution vs IPI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In pushing for the resolution of its libel suit against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. has asked the District Court for the NMI to allow them to join the writ of execution initially granted in favor of Joshua Gray.

USA Fanter filed a motion last Aug. 30 through its attorney, Colin Thompson, asking the District Court for the NMI to allow them to participate in the writ of execution.

Back in March 20, 2023, the district court entered a judgment in favor of USA Fanter in the amount of $500,000, plus post-judgment interest in its libel case against the casino investor.

Gray, a former IPI employee, won his discrimination lawsuit against the casino investor and applied for a writ of execution to authorize the seizure of IPI's properties to satisfy the $5,686,182.20 judgment against the casino investor.

Over a week ago, Chief Judge Ramona Manglona granted Gray's application for writ of execution, authorizing the U.S Marshals to seize IPI's vehicles, liquor, the two crystal dragons that hang over the casino's lobby, computer hardware, furniture and equipment, and casino-related security equipment.

According to court documents, after Gray triumphed in his lawsuit against IPI back in May, the court first allowed Gray to participate in the receivership proceedings last June to satisfy the over $5-million judgment granted in his favor. However, last July, Gray applied for a writ of execution against IPI's personal property so that they can be sold in an auction to satisfy the judgment awarded him in his suit.

Gray had sued IPI on the grounds of wrongful termination in violation of public policy (immigration violations), wrongful failure to hire, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. He then filed a motion for an over $20 million default judgment. Gray, through his lawyer, Bruce Berline, claims that he is entitled to compensatory damages and attorneys' fees and costs.

Gray requested back pay damages of $464,083.00, front pay damages of $1,475,685.00, and emotional distress damages of $2 million. In addition, he asked that the court to grant him punitive damages of roughly $27,578,376. The court instead granted him a judgment in the amount of $5,686,182.20.

HISTORY

From page 1

first night. "I'm thrilled that a lot of people showed up despite the heavy rains we've been experiencing," he shared

The crowd itself was a mix of interested community members, CNMI historians and history lovers alike, some of which were also presenters, as well as visiting guest speakers from Spain, Japan, Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland

The keynote speaker that night was traditional herbalist Donald Mendiola, and he shared a deeper view of the cultural practices of traditional medicine and herbs, the differences between the *suruhånu* (*suruhano* is a variant spelling) and *suruhåna,* the *makåna* and *kakahna,* as well as his personal experience in the realm of local medicine.

Mendiola shared his stories in the Chamorro dialect, and later Pangelinan shared an English translation and summary of what was spoken. He then explained that the experience was a rare opportunity and powerful. "We decided it was best if he spoke Chamorro the whole time. ...It was good because he needed to take us on that journey in the Chamorro language and share that energy..."

Pangelinan said that hearing Mendiola speak in pure Chamorro was a rare opportunity in a conference such as the Marianas History Conference which as an audience that isn't majority Chamorro, or have a majority of Chamorro speakers. "To be exposed and immersed in that…I think that's important [and] essential," he said. "The colonial influences on our people here has been very destructive for us in terms of our culture, but…his message tonight was [to] leave that behind. We cannot change that. We got to think positive and change the outlook of what we think about the future."

The conference continued all day Saturday and Sunday and included morning refreshments; meals; an exclusive dinner with cultural performances; all access to sessions and roundtables; experiential learning activities, some highlights being sailing trips; a tour of the Garapan Heritage Trail; Amut walk; and the new Marianas Experience showcase at DFS' T Galleria. This year's theme is "Healing the Wounds of History."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

USCG

From page 1

lic Safety on Sept. 1.

"Safety remains our top priority, and our dedicated team was committed to the swift and safe recovery of all persons aboard the M/V *Mama Loling*. We recognize these mariners' deep connection with the ocean and their invaluable role within their community. We marshalled all available resources and leveraged our training to bring them back safely to their families and loved ones," said Cmdr. Ryan Crose, the U.S. Coast Guard search and rescue mission coordinator.

Initial call

The U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam JRSC team received a distress call relayed by a U.S. Coast Guard member on Saipan from the 47-foot M/V *Mama Loling* at approximately 6:25pm on Aug. 30. The vessel was reportedly experiencing engine overheating and was beset by weather. It was making limited headway at two knots. The operator reported the boat about 41 nautical miles west of Pagan Island about 300 nautical miles north of Guam.

Actions

Diversion of Coast Guard cutter: Watchstanders diverted The USCGC *Frederick Hatch* (WPC 1143) to the distressed vessel's location. The M/V *Mama Loling* was discovered anchored off Pagan. The cutter crew took the vessel in tow, travelling about 120 nautical miles and closing on Saipan before transferring the tow to partners and resuming their original patrol.

Partner coordination: JRSC Guam coordinated with the 36th Wing at Andersen Air Force Base to deploy air assets for reconnaissance. The vessel was located prior to the availability of aircraft. JRSC watchstanders also coordinated with the CNMI DPS and USCGC *Frederick Hatch* transferred the tow to them about 30 nautical miles from Saipan.

SafetyNet issued: JRSC Guam has issued a SafetyNet alert to notify other vessel crews operating in the area about the situation and to seek assistance if possible.

Additional Information: Watchstanders received an update from Mr. Sherman, an oceanographer from Oregon State University involved in the vessel's mission. He clarified the team aboard the boat was chartered for oceanographic research, was supposed to pick up Argos-enabled buoy equipment and confirmed its last known location. This information aided in search and rescue operations.

Weather: During the search, the east wind was 5 to 15 knots with wind waves between 1 and 3 feet, a mixed swell from the west at 5 to 6 feet and from the east at 4 feet. The area experienced scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam comprises more than 300 members based in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands spread across shoreside and afloat units committed to maritime safety, security, and stewardship in Oceania.

PH

From page 1

In a news release issued Friday, Moylan said that, if the proposal is enacted, the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program would enhance the tourism numbers for Guam, which would assist in its economic activity and job creation.

Moylan disclosed that he requested Zubiri to file the resolution during their meeting that he hosted in Washington, D.C. last June.

Zubiri introduced last Tuesday Philippine Senate Resolution 766, which urges the U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs to ask the he U.S. president to include the Republic of the Philippines in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.. The resolution's co-sponsors are Senate president pro tempore Loren Legarda, majority leader Joel Villanueva, and minority leader Aquilino "Koko" Pimental III.

Moylan said that, during their discussion in Washington, D.C., he and Zubiri committed to working collaboratively on proposals that would mutually benefit both Guam and the Philippines, and that P.S. Resolution 766 is the start of many more of such efforts.

The delegate said this resolution will assist in their endeavors to advocate for a Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program for travelers from the Philippines.

"This is and will continue to be a concerted effort from all parties, including the governments of Guam, the CNMI, and the Philippines, along with federal partners," said Moylan, adding that once this resolution is adopted by the Philippine Senate, it would provide a great boost in the process.

He said former Guam governor and current Guam Visitors Bureau president Carl Gutierrez has been championing this effort for years, and that they look forward to the collaboration.

Moylan said they recently appointed Guam Sen. Jesse Lujan as the office's Legislative Liaison on issues that mutually benefit Guam and the Philippines, and that Lujan, too, has also been a tireless advocate of this waiver.

He said when the U.S. Congress reconvenes in a few weeks, they will make this issue one of their priorities of the bipartisan Philippines-Friendship Caucus, which he co-chairs.

Rep. Bobby Scott, a Democrat from Virginia, is also leading the Caucus, that aims to address issues of mutual benefit to both the U.S. and the Philippines.

According to Guam Visitors Bureau statistics shared a couple of years ago, individual spending habits of Filipinos who visit Guam often exceed those of visitors from other primary markets from Guam, inclusive of Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

Moylan said that Guam is an attractive tourism destination for many Filipinos for many reasons, including the duty-free shopping, the tropical environment, the less than four hours of travel time, and "the reality that the American flag flies above."

"This is not only a great opportunity to assist our tourism industry in their rebound but imagine how much easier it would be for island residents to reunite with their family members who reside in the Philippines by simply flying them to Guam without the hassles or costs to obtain a visa," he said.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce supports including the Philippines on the list of countries that are being proposed for the Department of Homeland Security's Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

AIRLINE

From page 1

cantly impact airlines' interest in flying to the CNMI.

The CPA board of directors unanimously voted last Thursday to suspend the incentive program and the move is expected to generate over $300,000 that would go to CNMI airport operations.

According to board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, she said CPA needed to make this cut to generate additional revenue for operations.

"It was available to everybody indefinitely but we needed to adjust the budget accordingly to reflect additional revenue. So we have to suspend any discount that we were giving to airlines," she said.

The program incentivizes airlines to fly to the CNMI by offering a 75% discount on airport fees for eligible airlines.

King-Hinds said the program will officially be suspended beginning Oct. 1, the beginning of fiscal year 2024.

"The Airline Incentive Program is a two-year program that gives a significant discount in terms of landing fees and whatever other fees as it relates to the airlines' activity with the airport. This program gives a 75% discount the first year, and then the second year is a 50% discount. The years following that, the airlines would have to pay the full price," she said.

The only airline that is availing itself of CPA's incentive program right now is United Airlines, specifically its Narita route, because they're the only airline to launch a new route in the past couple of years, King-Hinds noted.

"When they established the Narita to Saipan pipeline, they availed of the Airline Incentive Program. So that's been ongoing now for a year, which means for the past year they're halfway through, so they have actually one more year on the program," she said.

King-Hinds said the problem with suspending the Airline Incentive Program is that it could significantly hurt the CNMI in terms of discouraging new airlines and new markets from coming in.

"It was a way to incentivize airlines to come here and now you're suspending it and then you're increasing rates. It's not just CPA that is in a world of hurt here. It's always a concern that we may be pushing away other airlines who may be interested in coming to Saipan. If we don't have that incentive program, how do we attract people? But at the same time, if you can't pay the bills and you can't keep the airports open, whose going to be coming here?" she said.

King-Hinds reiterated that the only way to bring airport rates down and possibly reopen the incentive program is to get new markets to travel to the CNMI or even reconnect with the China market.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

FROM THE OFFICE OF
Rep. Malcolm J. Omar
CNMI House of Representatives
Precinct #4

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September celebrated as Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month

CHRYSTAL MARINO

CNMI Women Affairs Office's Bobbie Sablan reads part of the Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month proclamation at the proclamation's signing ceremony yesterday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. Seated next to her is Carolinian Affairs Office executive assistant Felix Nogis and Gov. Arnold I Palacios.

Kickstarting the month of September with the annual celebration of the indigenous people of the CNMI and their rich cultural heritage, Gov. Arnold I Palacios designated September as the Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month during a proclamation signing last Thursday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Members of the Indigenous Affairs Office, the Commonwealth Council for the Arts and Culture, the Refaluwasch Advisory Council, the Office of the Governor, the Women's Affairs Office, and dozens of community members joined Palacios for the signing.

Joshua Villagomez, Sohayla Deleon Guerrero, and Agatha Ketebengang handled the reading of the proclamation. The document highlighted the importance of keeping the local culture, customs, and traditions alive, and encouraged the community to continue to promote and encourage the promotion of the island's rich heritage.

The proclamation noted how Chamorro and Carolinian Heritage Month provides more opportunities for the Chamorro and Carolinian people in the CNMI an occasion to showcase their unique cultures. "As Chamorros and Carolinians, we need to continue to educate and inspire our younger generation on the importance of our ways of living. We shall further promote and showcase them so it may continue to flourish," it said. The proclamation also noted the labors of those who have kept and advocated the preservation of culture.

In his welcoming remarks, Carolinian Affairs Office Executive Assistant Felix Nogis spoke in the vernacular, thanking all those assembled for coming.

"Throughout the month of September, we will have different kinds of activities here at the Utt," he said, noting that there will also be schools that will be allowing some children to participate in the activities that will be held at the Utt during the week so that they may learn weaving, arts, and storytelling—with the storytelling being in Carolinian and Chamorro, "so that the children will be able to know the story of our land…."

In his remarks, Palacios said, "I know sometimes we take things for granted and forget the valuable aspects of who we are." He encouraged sustaining the advocacy, preservation, and participation in culture "not just for ourselves, but also for our children." He thanked the organizations gathered for their advocacy of the local culture, and noted that they were working collaboratively to have bilingual programs in schools, continuing to teach the next generations customs and the nuances of the CNMI as a community and as a people. He also encouraged the community to participate in upcoming events celebrating the CNMI's culture.

The celebration kicked off with a Mass at the Kristo Rai Church last Saturday.

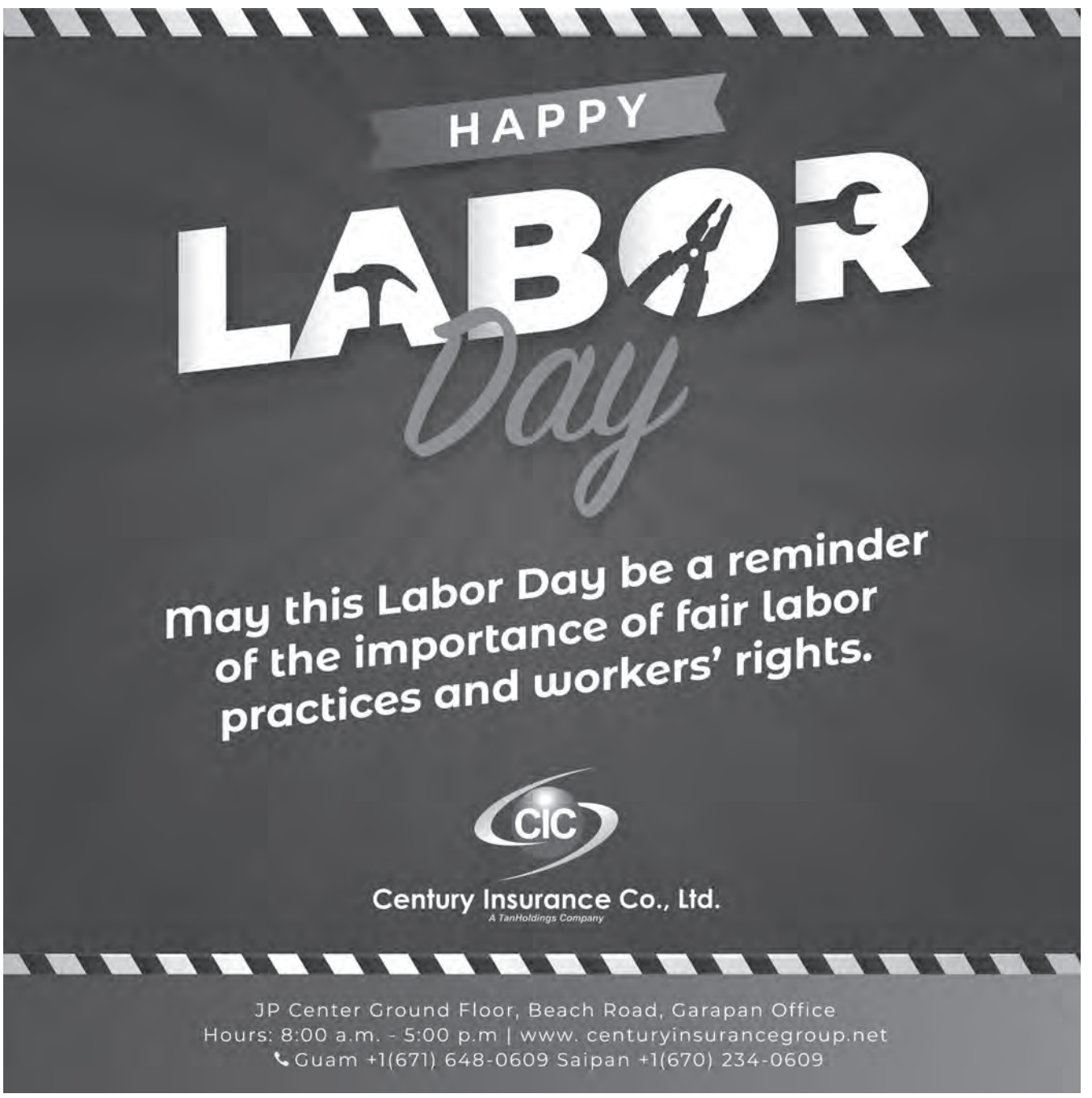
Other activities lined up for the month are:

- Sabalu Market on Sept. 2, 16, and 30.
- Rota outreach from Thursday to Saturday, Sept 7 to 9.
- Cultural clinics on Saturdays, Sept. 9, 16, and 23 from 10am to 11am at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.
- Cultural outreach at different schools and agencies each Tuesday and Thursday: Sept. 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, and 28.
- 37th Memorial Commemoration, 2pm on Sept. 23 at the 13 Fishermen's Memorial.
- Another 37th Memorial Commemoration also at 2pm, Sept. 24, at the 13 Fishermen's Monument.
- Songs and chants of the islands events on Sunday, Sept. 10, 17 and 24, from 5pm to 9pm at the Carolinian Utt.

The week will close off with a grand finale celebration on Sunday, Oct. 1, from 5pm to 9pm at the Carolinian Utt.

To further promote the local culture, everyone is encouraged display the island heritage by wearing traditional attire and adornment throughout the month.

Government and business sectors, especially schools, hotels and restaurants, are encouraged and invited to facilitate cultural exhibits and performances.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Advocacy group for US territories touches base with CNMI

Right to Democracy, an organization that is trying to build a movement to promote democracy and self-determination in the U.S. territories, had a listening session at the American Memorial Park Theater last Wednesday.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Right to Democracy, an organization that is trying to build a movement to promote democracy and self-determination in the U.S. territories, hosted listening sessions starting last week to determine some of the issues the CNMI faces and how it relates to other U.S. territories.

Adi Martinez-Roman and Neil Weare, who are the co-founders and co-directors of the newly-created group, Right to Democracy, held an open community forum last Wednesday to discuss some of the challenges the CNMI, as a territory faces, that should be brought to the national level's attention.

For the next couple of days, the two Right to Democracy speakers continued to interact with the community through listening sessions, meetings, and panels to listen and understand the challenges that are faced in the CNMI community and their views on laws that govern them, and advocate for the CNMI on its behalf on the national stage.

Right to Democracy's community partner in this endeavor, Community Solutions' Shiela Babauta, said it was appropriate to have a setting that was comfortable, open, and could encourage expanding perspectives instead of focusing on debating on who is right or wrong.

"Tonight we really wanted to learn from their work around confronting colonialism connecting the territories. It was great to see inter-generational conversations happening. We had students from [the Northern Marianas College and] recent graduates from Kagman High School and Marianas High School. In addition, we had local leaders like House Speaker Edmund Villagomez and Senate President Edith Delong Guerrero. It was truly a success," she said.

Babauta said one of the highlights of the conversation last Wednesday was how we, and members of the CNMI community, treat other territories.

"We talked about how we see one another, how we view people from neighboring territories. I'm really happy with that kind of dialogue coming up because it does raise awareness," she said.

Throughout the week, Babauta said she has helped organized listening sessions in the community.

"We've gathered small focus groups because we want to gather more information and hopefully find community leaders. Right to Democracy is really just here to listen. I'm very proud and honored to be a part of this," she said.

Babauta shared that Right to Democracy's end goal is to complete their tour around the U.S. territories and take all the information they've gathered to a summit in New York to hopefully raise awareness about the problems U.S. territories face but have no say in.

"They've been to Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, [and] they will be going to American Samoa after their stay here on Saipan. Right now they're just finding ways to connect us all so that they can voice out for us the issues that we face as territories on the national level. They will present their findings to different advocacy groups and possibly even open more funding sources for the territories," she said.

Training in elder abuse awareness, prevention continues in September

The University of Guam's Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program is offering another opportunity for caregivers of persons with dementia to participate in the CARES Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention online training and certification program. This training program focuses on how to recognize signs of elder abuse, including physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse, and caregiver neglect and self-neglect. It also describes many positive things you can do to help prevent elder abuse.

The program has four modules. The first three modules were conducted in August and the fourth module is being offered this month. Make-up sessions for all four modules are also being offered this month. Participants who complete all four modules will receive a certificate of completion and will be eligible for CARES Dementia

Certification. The training schedule for Sept. is outlined below.

Module 4: Community Resources
- 6pm to 8pm Wednesday, Sept. 6, or
- 10am to noon, Saturday, Sept. 9

Module 1: What is Elder Abuse? (Make-up Session)
- 6pm to 8pm Wednesday, Sept. 13

Module 2: Dementia and Elder Abuse (Make-up Session)
- 10am to noon, Saturday, Sept. 16

Module 3: The CARES® Approach and Elder Abuse Prevention (Make-up session)
- 6pm to 8pm Wednesday, Sept. 20

Module 4: Community Resources (Make-up Session)
- 10am to noon, Saturday, Sept. 23

Certification Exam
- 6pm to 8pm Wednesday, Sept. 27, or
- 10am to noon, Saturday, Sept. 30

Participants can attend the Wednesday or Saturday sessions using the following Zoom links:
- Wednesday sessions: https://zoom.us/j/92072878067
- Saturday sessions: https://zoom.us/j/91243370958

Ongoing dementia support groups

These sessions are part of the ongoing online support groups for family caregivers of persons with dementia being conducted by the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program of the UOG School of Health. The support group sessions are held on Zoom on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings year-round. The sessions are free of charge to partners, family members, and other caregivers of persons with dementia who have ties to Guam and the Micronesian region.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Iain Twaddle or Nikolas Gutierrez
Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program
Telehealth Geriatric Support Services
University of Guam
Tel: (671) 735-2883
Email: gwep.tgss@triton.uog.edu

Rhoda Orallo
Health Services of the Pacific
Tel: (671) 735-3277
Email: r.orallo@hspguam.com ***(UOG)***

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 23-01
United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

Court Services Coordinator

Permanent, Full-Time Position - Location: SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
Starting grade: CL-24 step 1 to CL-26 Step 25, $46,435 to $70,603 (which includes 12.25 % COLA)
(Depending on qualifications and experience; promotion potential to CL-26 without further competition.)
(Ultimate pay potential CL 26 $71,192 - $91,787 by progressive performance and career salary progression.)
Opening Date: September 1, 2023 • Applications received by September 14, 2023 will be given priority.

Position Overview:
The Court Services Coordinator provides administrative support for Magistrate Judge court cases, compiles data and produces various reports, prepares travel cost estimates and payments, acts as Human Resources and staff development coordinator, researches and coordinates public outreach programs and conferences. Obtain the complete position description at https://www.nmid.uscourts.gov/employment This position includes full federal employment benefits, with paid leave, federal holidays, health insurance, life insurance, and federal retirement benefits.

Minimum Qualifications and Preferred Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent with at least one year general work experience plus one year of specialized work experience in finance, human resources, public relations, information technology, graphic arts, or court and legal administration. Education above the high school level may be substituted for one year of general work experience. Additional preference will be given for college degree. Applicants should demonstrate sound ethics and judgment, be able to communicate effectively (orally and in writing), and be skilled in word processing, spreadsheets, and be trainable in using automated systems.

Citizenship Requirement:
Applicants are required to be U.S. citizens or aliens who are authorized to work in the United States.

Notice to Applicants:
Excepted service appointments are "at will" and may be terminated by either the court or the employee at any time for any reason. Selectees may be subject to a background check or investigation and suitability determination; and may be subject to an updated background investigation every five years. Employees are subject to the Judicial Code of Conduct. Direct bank deposit of pay is required.

Application Procedure:
Cover Letter, Resume, and AO-78 application form are *required*. (Questions 18, 19, and 20 on page 5 of the AO-78 need not be answered.) AO-78 forms are at:
https://www.uscourts.gov/forms/human-resources-forms/application-judicial-branch-federal-employment
or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Please compile your Cover Letter, Resume, and your *signed* AO-78 application into one combined PDF document and email to: HR@nmid.uscourts.gov

Position is open until filled; applications received by September 14, 2023 will be given priority.

The United States District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA)
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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on Tuesday, September 05, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM(S):
1. Saipan Airport Explosive Detection System (EDS) Replacement Project Change Order No. 4 and CM Amendment No. 2 Supplemental Budget Request and Board Sanctioning

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)

V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom.
Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

HANMI opposes CCTV bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands does not support a bill that requires all businesses, regardless of size, type, or location to install a closed-circuit television camera at all entrance points, exit points, and checkout counters.

Quichocho

HANMI chair Ivan Quichocho has informed the House of Representatives Committee on Commerce and Tourism that House Bill 23-63 leaves numerous items unaddressed, including the fines and penalties that may be imposed, how often the Department of Public Safety certification would need to be renewed, and details regarding a cost subsidy program that is only vaguely mentioned in the legislation.

"Matters of this significance should be clearly set out in the bill, and not left to the administrative regulatory process," Quichocho said.

He said the legislation will place an enormous financial burden on HANMI member-hotels, as well as other businesses in the CNMI, that are struggling to operate and financially recover after the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting downturn in tourism and the hospitality industry.

While most HANMI member-hotels have some CCTV in their properties, the requirements of this legislation far exceed the current CCTV operations at the hotels, Quichocho said.

"From a practical perspective, implementation of this Act, and requiring all CNMI businesses to obtain a certificate of compliance in order to renew their business licenses is problematic," he said.

Rep. Julie Ogo (Ind-Rota) introduced the bill.

Through hard work, we find not only the opportunity to reap the fruits of our labor but the meaning of how we were able to harvest it as well.
HAPPY
LABOR DAY
RAMON "RB"
JOSE BLAS CAMACHO
MAYOR OF SAIPAN AND STAFF

SURFRIDER RESORT HOTEL SAIPAN · Hertz · dollar. CAR RENTAL · TRIPLE J MOTORS NEW CARS • USED CARS • PARTS • SERVICE · FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN · Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store · CATERING
Surf Club RESTAURANT · Great Harvest Bread Co. BAKERY & CAFE · SANDY BEACH HOMES · SAIPAN COMFORT HOMES · Ocean Ridge Homes · Tinian Garden B&B · WHOLESALE TO EVERYONE · BAR-K-DINER · TINIAN WESTERN LODGE

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A heinous, racist shooting in Florida

The racially motivated murders of three Black Jacksonville citizens in a Dollar General store took the priceless lives of Angela Michelle Carr, 52; Anolt Joseph Laguerre Jr., 29; and Jerrald De'Shaun Gallion, 19, who were randomly targeted by 21-year-old Ryan Christopher Palmeter, who officials said took his own life after the shooting.

Palmeter made sure there was no nuance over his motivation, leaving a 20-plus-page racist manifesto on his home computer and putting swastikas on his Glock handgun and an AR-15-style rifle, both of which he bought legally.

"We have three people who are dead because they are Black," Tracie Davis, a state senator from Jacksonville said at a Sunday news conference. "Shopping. In our community. Gunned down. Because they were Black."

"When a person grabs ahold of a gun with hateful intentions, it's very difficult to stop that from happening," Jacksonville Sheriff T.K. Waters said at the news conference.

That may be true, just as it was in other racially motivated shootings in places like Buffalo, N.Y., and Charleston, S.C. But less difficult would be keeping people like Palmeter from purchasing weapons in the first place—that is, if elected leaders would only heed the overwhelming numbers of Americans crying out for more common-sense gun legislation.

Palmeter's racist ramblings were "quite frankly, the diary of a madman," the sheriff said. "He was just completely irrational. But with irrational thoughts, he knew what he was doing. He was 100% lucid."

Palmeter's irrationality and, as Waters termed it, his madness should have meant he couldn't buy firearms. But even though he had an involuntary 72-hour psychiatric evaluation in 2017, when he was just 15, as well as a domestic-violence call involving his brother, Palmeter was not prohibited from purchasing guns because he did not have a criminal record.

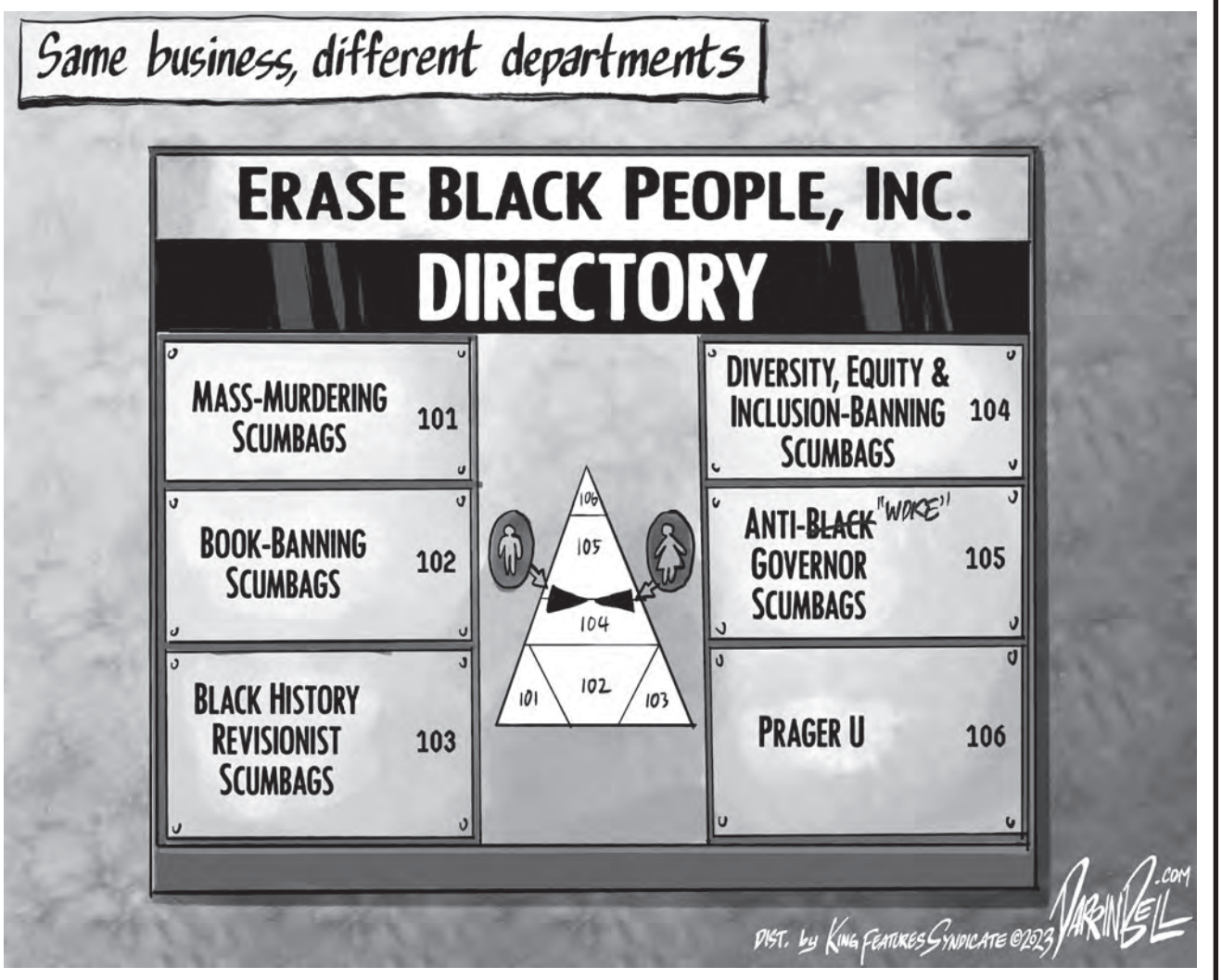
The "hateful intentions" Waters spoke about are becoming more mainstream. "The broadest context is that society is changing in many respects," including demographically, which threatens some people, Christopher Federico, a University of Minnesota professor of psychology and political science, told an editorial writer. While not diagnosing the Jacksonville shooting in particular, Federico added that "in the last 10 or 15 years there's been a weakening of the norms against displays of extremism, particularly extremism of a racist nature."

Every citizen can fight back against the mainstreaming of hate, be it in private conversations or public social-media feeds. "We've seen a shift in the norms about what kind of opinions are acceptable and what sort of messages get out there across a variety of platforms," Federico said.

Using the platform of the bully pulpit, President Joe Biden said in a statement, "We must say clearly and forcefully that white supremacy has no place in America. We must refuse to live in a country where Black families going to the store or Black students going to school live in fear of being gunned down because of the color of their skin."

One of the Republicans trying to take Biden's job, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, told reporters, "Perpetuating violence of this kind is unacceptable, and targeting people due to their race has no place in the state of Florida."

See HEINOUS on Page 11



We must expand the definition of domestic violence to include emotional abuse

By SO'PHELIA MORROW
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

On Aug. 16, Emma Cooper's documentary "Depp v. Heard" dropped on Netflix. Despite generally scathing reviews, it quickly rose to most-watched status.

People's ongoing fascination with this trial is a testament to the power that tales of physical abuse have in the public eye. I can't say that I was ever hit, slapped or punched, but I know that a prison of abuse can be built without the abuser ever laying a hand on the victim. I know because it happened to me.

"He kidnapped me one weekend, and I never went home." "I have Stockholm syndrome." These are the jokes I would tell people in the beginning of the abusive relationship I later escaped last September. I didn't really believe this, though. At least not consciously. But one of the many things I've learned about myself is that I hid my subconscious knowledge behind these jokes.

My abuser never physically hurt me, but he isolated me, never letting me spend any time without him. We moved where he wanted to move. His decisions were my decisions. He would want to have debates almost every day about the smallest of things, constantly trying to undermine my intelligence. I would come up with potential ideas for skits for the entertainment production company he claimed he wanted to start but somehow never did. He knew I was insecure about how creative I am. One day, he told me, "You know you're not as clever as you think you are." Although it stunned me — and I most certainly thought it was an unkind thing to say to a partner — I didn't recognize it at the time as a form of verbal abuse. He didn't blatantly say, "You're ignorant," or "You're unintelligent." No, those weren't going to work on me. I'm too highly educated. He said I wasn't as clever as I thought I was. He was big on word choice and used that specific word because he knew it would get under my skin. He was saying, "You're not as creative as you think you are."

Emotional abuse is underrecognized as abuse even though psychological violence — more than physical violence or sexual violence — is the strongest predictor of post-traumatic stress disorder in abused women and often precedes physical abuse.

The formal resources available to address abuse tend to focus on physical violence. For example, the primary method law enforcement agencies use to disrupt abuse in relationships is batterer intervention programs or education counseling programs — i.e., a form of therapy. However, to access these programs, victims must report to the police. Police, however, are likely to intervene only in cases of physical abuse. Victims of emotional abuse must navigate formal systems in a roundabout way.

Housing law in the state of Michigan where I live says that a tenant has the right to terminate a lease if they fear for their physical or mental safety. To break my lease in order to exit the abusive relationship I was caught in, I had to provide my landlord with documentation that I had experienced violence. "Do you have any court documents?" the representative for the property management asked me over the phone. I didn't. But what I did have and what I submitted was a qualified third-party document signed by my therapist to show that I presented symptoms of PTSD, a direct result of experiencing violence. My freedom was granted.

Unfortunately, not every state includes mental violence in their definition as Michigan does. Legal definitions of "domestic violence" are not equal across states. For example, to terminate a lease in the state of Illinois, one must be experiencing domestic violence as defined by the state, which includes physical abuse, harassment, intimidation of a dependent, interference with personal liberty or willful deprivation — but nothing about mental harm or injury. For victims of emotional abuse, whether or not they escape their kidnapper may wholly depend on how the state in which they live defines the experience of abuse.

My bleak "jokes" masked a deep knowing. And just like I should have listened to myself then, policymakers, lawmakers and those genuinely concerned with addressing gender-based violence should listen to me now. Every state needs to expand the definition of domestic violence to include nonphysical forms of abuse. Because by expanding what abuse is, we can change how we respond and offer more means for thousands to escape their kidnappers.

So'Phelia Morrow is a doctoral candidate in the joint social work and sociology program at the University of Michigan and a Public Voices Fellow on Advancing the Rights of Women and Girls in partnership with The OpEd Project and Equality Now.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Celebrating Labor Day in CNMI: Honoring hard work and dedication

By LEILA STAFFLER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Leila Staffler is the CNMI Department of Labor secretary.

As we celebrate another Labor Day, it is my honor to extend my heartfelt greetings to all the hardworking individuals who form the backbone of our vibrant community. Labor Day serves as a moment of reflection, appreciation, and celebration of the dedication and contributions that each one of you brings to the prosperity of our beloved CNMI.

Throughout our history, the people of CNMI have displayed an unwavering commitment to progress, growth, and unity. This Labor Day, we come together to recognize the tireless efforts of our workers across various sectors—from tourism and hospitality to agriculture, construction, healthcare, and beyond. Your resilience and dedication have played a pivotal role in shaping our islands' economic landscape and enriching the quality of life for all residents.

While we commemorate this day with parades, gatherings, and festivities, let us also remember the importance of supporting fair labor practices, safe working conditions, and opportunities for career advancement. Our commitment to upholding these principles not only benefits workers but also reinforces our collective determination to create a flourishing environment that fosters innovation and prosperity.

As we continue to navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, let us remain united in our efforts to build a CNMI that values its workforce as its greatest asset. Together, we can overcome obstacles, seize new possibilities, and achieve greater heights of success.

I extend my gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication, passion, and unyielding spirit. On this Labor Day, let us celebrate not only the fruits of our labor but also the spirit of collaboration and resilience that define us as a community.

Happy Labor Day, CNMI!

As Mawar recovery continues, preventing workplace falls is a life and death issue

By ROGER FORSTNER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Roger Forstner is the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Area Director, Honolulu.

As we mark another Labor Day, all Americans should be proud of how the hard work and sacrifice of so many people have long made U.S. productivity the envy of the world. For our nation's construction workers, that productivity provides us with new roads and bridges and buildings and other structures that enrich our lives. What many may not know is that, for the people who do this kind of work, a wrong step without required safety protections in place is too often the cause of serious injuries or fatalities.

Recent Bureau of Labor Statistics' reports affirm that falls remain the leading cause of workplace deaths in the construction industry. In fact, of the 986 deaths reported in the industry in 2021, falls from elevation accounted for 378 or 38% of the fatal incidents. Similarly, falls cause almost 10,000 construction workers to suffer serious injuries each year. Studies show fatalities and serious injuries occur at work sites of small residential construction contractors disproportionately.

Serious and fatal injuries related to workplace falls are preventable. Little solace for those harmed and their families, but a stern reminder that industry-recognized and legally required fall safety measures are truly a life and death matter.

To protect workers, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration uses a balanced approach of outreach, compliance assistance and enforcement. We also make additional efforts to reach construction industry workers and keep them safe from workplace falls. In conjunction with the 10th annual National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction in May 2023, OSHA launched a National Emphasis Program on Falls. chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/directives/CPL_03-00-025.pdf

The program seeks to address the fact that, just as in OSHA inspections elsewhere, fall protection hazards are the most frequently cited violations at worksites in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam. In fact, from July 2022 to July 2023, 33% of construction violations cited related to fall hazards, including six willful violations of fall protection standards.

As Guam and the CNMI continue to recover from Typhoon Mawar, many industry workers are fixing and replacing roofs and other structures at heights that jeopardize their safety when proper protections are lacking. This increased level of activity raises concerns as it increases the potential for workers to be exposed to fall hazards. For those of us at OSHA, one of the toughest parts of our jobs is making that call to a family grieving the loss of a loved one in a fall-related incident to offer condolences and to let them know we are investigating the incident. We know no words or an investigation's findings can ever fill the void of their tragic loss.

OSHA cautions all employers involved in rebuilding after weather events such as typhoons and storms not to add to the tragic aftermath by exposing workers to falls from heights. By making safety a priority and a core value on every worksite and by taking required precautions, employers can help prevent tragedies and protect workers from needless harm.

Without a serious commitment by construction industry employers, small and large, to keep their workers safe and healthy by complying with federal workplace safety standards, falls from elevation will continue to be a potentially deadly fact facing these hardworking people. Employers must foster an environment where employees are empowered to report safety concerns, participate in safety committees and contribute actively to identify hazards and eliminate risks. By informing workers routinely, training them properly and applying OSHA protections equally, employers can ensure their employees end their workdays safely. They can also spare their employees' families from getting the kind of call that no one ever wants to receive.

Character counts. Just ask Brian Kemp

By FRANCIS WILKINSON
Bloomberg Opinion

Francis Wilkinson is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering U.S. politics and policy. Previously, he was an editor for the* Week, *a writer for* Rolling Stone, *a communications consultant and a political media strategist.*

"The bottom line in the state of Georgia, as long as I'm governor, we're going to follow the law and the constitution regardless of who it helps or harms politically," Georgia Governor Brian Kemp said at a news conference Thursday.

Kemp's statement of fidelity to the law and state constitution was noteworthy, of course, for only one reason: Kemp is a Republican. The frontrunner for the Republican nomination for president is eager for fellow Republicans to break laws and shatter constitutions to shield him and his minions from the consequences of criminality, and to wreak vengeance on the forces of law and order that seek to constrain him.

It was precisely such an attack on the law that inspired Kemp's statement. MAGA legislators in the state have been searching for extra-legal means of releasing Donald Trump from a criminal indictment stemming from his efforts to overthrow the republic. Seemingly lacking faith in Trump's claims of innocence, they have called instead for the removal of Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis. If they can shut down the trial before a jury – and the world – can hear sworn testimony and evidence of Trump's actions, perhaps the king of Mar-a-Lago and his criminal confederates can be spared consequences.

But Kemp is not cooperating with calls for Willis to be removed by an oversight commission. Nor is he supportive of a proposed special session of the legislature dedicated to placing Trump beyond the reach of the law.

"There have been calls by one individual in the General Assembly and echoed outside of these walls by the former president, for a special session that would ignore current Georgia law and directly interfere with the proceedings of a separate but equal branch of government," Kemp said. "A special session of the General Assembly to end run around this law is not feasible and may ultimately prove to be unconstitutional."

The phrase "separate but equal," delivered with a Georgia drawl, has perhaps never been applied to such honest ends.

Kemp is not unique. But he is rare. The names of other conservatives who refused to sanction Trump's crimes are well known. Many lost their offices as a direct result of their integrity. Former Representative Liz Cheney. Former Arizona House Speaker Rusty Bowers, who lost his campaign for a state senate seat after refusing to treat Trump's stolen election claims as anything more than the lies they obviously were. The small band of Republican House members who voted with the constitution and their consciences to impeach Trump was mostly obliterated by GOP backlash.

I try to be mindful of political science and the imperatives of incentives in driving political conduct. Yes, Kemp, like Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensberger, governs a purple state with emerging bluish tints in the suburbs. But that doesn't really explain their conduct in rebuffing Trump and following the law. Republicans in Arizona, Michigan and Pennsylvania were all in purple states. Many of them went off the rails.

Ultimately, Kemp, Raffensberger, Bowers, Cheney and the others, all of whom will be heroes of this sordid passage of American history, made moral decisions. They refused to sink in the moral squalor engulfing their party, while others, such as Representative Elise Stefanik of New York, who supplanted Cheney in the House leadership, and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, decided to dive deep.

Kemp and Raffensberger survived Trump's attacks and were easily reelected in Georgia. They appear to have paid a minimal political price for acting with integrity. But they didn't know that would be the outcome when Trump and his cronies came looking to subvert democracy in late 2020. The political future was unknown. Whatever you think of their politics, they are moral men. It turns out that the old conservatives were correct: Character counts.

HEINOUS

From page 10

DeSantis, whose divisive rhetoric has become central to his governance and politics, was greeted at a Jacksonville vigil with boos. But the crowd was quieted by Jacksonville City Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman, who said that a bullet doesn't "know a party."

That's true. Which is why both parties should put aside their enmity and work together to prevent Jacksonville from being just another city on the list of places where extremism steals invaluable lives.

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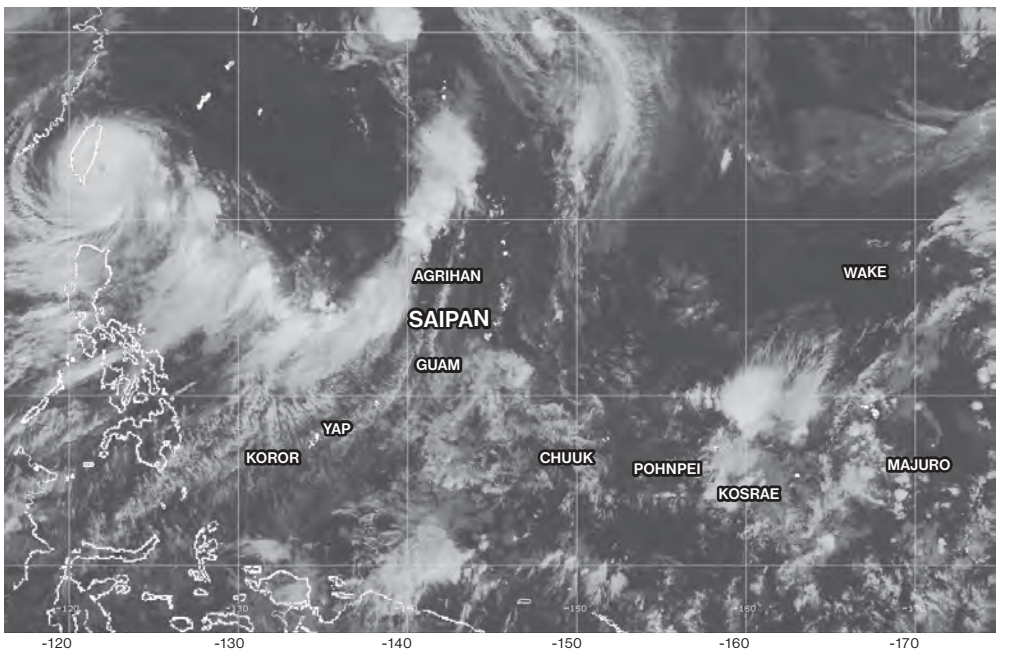
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:05 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The Marianas are east of the monsoon trough and north of the deep tropical convection also associated with the monsoon trough, leaving the islands with isolated shower coverage this morning. The Ipan buoy reveals a 2 to 3 foot east swell, while computer wave model guidance suggests a 3 to 5 foot west swell, giving total combined seas of 4 to 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	82° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:50 AM	9:41 PM
Tuesday	-	10:48 AM	10:26 PM
Wednesday	-	11:45 AM	11:14 PM
Thursday	-	12:43 PM	-
Friday	12:04 AM	1:38 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Rain	61° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	91° / 63°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	84° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	90° / 78°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 61°
Los Angeles	Sunny	90° / 72°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorm	89° / 79°
New York	Sunny	83° / 70°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	91° / 77°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	72° / 55°
Busan	Thunderstorm	81° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	88° / 64°
Salem	Sunny	94° / 71°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	69° / 57°
Seoul	Thunderstorm	77° / 72°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	82° / 73°
Washington, DC	Sunny	88° / 72°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
4:48 AM	Low Tide	0.35
10:52 AM	High Tide	1.90
4:57 PM	Low Tide	0.79
10:35 PM	High Tide	1.99

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1 up to Sep 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR 111	7:05AM	9:05AM	7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily up to Sep 4
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily from Sep 5

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1 up to Sep 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR110	11:40PM	5:35AM+1	6
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Comedian Rob Schneider is set to perform in Guam

The University of Guam Endowment Foundation, in collaboration with Guam Comedy, announces another major entertainment event for Guam audiences.

Get ready to laugh as the legendary comedian Rob Schneider takes the stage on Nov. 3 and 4 at the UOG Calvo Field House.

Known for his unforgettable characters and signature humor, Schneider promises an evening of non-stop laughter. With a career that spans decades, Schneider has left an indelible mark on the world of comedy. From his memorable performances on *Saturday Night Live* to his hit films like *Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo*, *The Hot Chick*, and *Grown Ups*, Schneider has consistently delivered comedic gold that has kept audiences entertained.

Schneider

"We're thrilled to bring Rob Schneider to Guam for what promises to be an incredible night of comedy," said Jesse Leon Guerrero, chairman of the UOG Endowment Foundation. "Schneider's comedic talent is renowned, and we are thankful that this event will benefit the University of Guam through the UOG Endowment Foundation."

Tickets for Schneider's comedy shows will be available for purchase through www.guamcomedy.com launching at 5pm on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

For updates, visit Guam Comedy's social media platforms or on its website www.guamcomedy.com. ***(PR)***

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We celebrate the diversity of workers around the world, and recognize the important role that each and every one of them plays in our society.
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6am - 10pm daily

Business

Exceptional service nets award for Enterprise Rent-A-Car Saipan and Cebu

In a significant achievement that underscores their commitment to customer satisfaction, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Saipan and Cebu have been awarded the Exceptional Achievement Award at the recently concluded 2022 Enterprise Holdings Global Franchising Ceremony held last June 20–23 at the Ritz-Carlton in St. Louis, Missouri, near the Enterprise Holdings headquarters.

Delegates at this event represented more than 90 countries globally across Latin America; Europe, Middle East, and Africa; and Asia-Pacific regions. This recognition comes as a result of both Enterprise Rent-A-Car Saipan and Cebu's unwavering dedication to providing top-tier services and a seamless rental experience for their customers.

The award is renowned for its rigorous evaluation process and is considered a benchmark for excellence in the Enterprise Holdings Group of companies. Both Saipan and Cebu teams received an 85% SQI (service quality index) alongside other franchise locations all over the world, thanks to their consistent delivery of exceptional service and their continuous efforts to improve the customer experience.

Since its inception, both the Enterprise Saipan and Cebu teams have prioritized customer satisfaction as a core value they uphold, mirroring the same values of the Enterprise mothership, which always puts the needs of the customers first. This award is a testament to their ongoing dedication to not only meeting but exceeding customers' expectations. From streamlined online booking processes to a wide range of vehicle options, Enterprise Saipan and Cebu have consistently demonstrated their commitment to making the car rental experience convenient and hassle-free.

Both locations' fleet maintenance and cleanliness standards have also been a highlight for customers. Enterprise Saipan and Cebu's dedication to keeping their vehicles in impeccable condition and meeting EHI standards showcases their understanding of the importance of both comfort and safety for renters.

To receive the awards, CEO and franchise owner Cita Tomada, the visionary leader behind both locations, was in St. Louis to accept them on behalf of the Saipan and Cebu teams. Also present at the event was the CEO of Enterprise Holdings, Chrissy Taylor, and other ranking executives.

This recognition not only solidifies Enterprise Saipan and Cebu's position as industry leaders in their respective locations but also serves as motivation to maintain their high standards of quality service. As they continue to grow and innovate, customers can expect an even more seamless and enjoyable car rental experience from Enterprise Saipan and Cebu in the years to come. ***(PR)***

Anna Hayes retires after 31 years as Herman's Modern Bakery chief

After 31 years of working with the family business, Herman's Modern Bakery, Anna G, Hayes retired as general manager on Oct. 31, 2022, and assistant general manager Michael R. Guerrero succeeded as interim general manager effective immediately after.

Hayes joined the company in 1991. Under her leadership as general manager, she developed five divisions on top of the bakery and blossomed the catering division. Herman's Modern Bakery now consists of the bakery, Tan Marakita's Café, PSS Food Service, Wholesale, Catering and Garapan Outlet.

She noted that her time spent in the organization has been rewarding and fulfilling as there has never been a dull moment at Herman's Modern Bakery.

"It has been an honor to serve as general manager for Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. during this period of transformation and growth, and I want to offer my sincere thanks to our employees whose hard work and dedication have allowed us to achieve so much," said Hayes. "We have been in business in the CNMI for 79 years and we owe a huge thank you to our customers, communities, colleagues, shareholders, and the board of directors for their ongoing support during my tenure. I have worked with Michael for many years and am confident he will be a great leader for Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. I look forward to working closely together through March 31, 2023 to ensure a smooth transition."

Hayes steered the company through some of the most turbulent times that faced not just Herman's Modern Bakery ,but the entire CNMI, such as Typhoon Soudelor, Super Typhoon Yutu, and the COVID19 pandemic.

"Ms. Hayes has been a power house of knowledge and tenacity, and Herman's Modern Bakery will definitely miss her vast experience and passion for the bakery. After three decades of hard work and dedication, she can fully enjoy her new role as a grandmother," said a news release from the company.

Herman's Modern Bakery was founded in 1944 by the couple Herman R. Guerrero and Maria C. Tenorio. It is the maker of the locally famous Herman's sweet bread and pan tuba. ***(PR)***

US will regulate nursing home staffing for first time

NEW YORK (AP)—The federal government will, for the first time, dictate staffing levels at nursing homes, the Biden administration said Friday, responding to systemic problems bared by mass COVID-19 deaths.

While such regulation has been sought for decades by allies of older adults and those with disabilities, the proposed threshold is far lower than many advocates had hoped. It also immediately drew ire from the nursing home industry, which said it amounted to a mandate that couldn't be met.

With criticism expected, a promise made with fanfare in President Joe Biden's 2022 State of the Union speech had its details revealed as many Americans turned away from the news for a holiday weekend.

"We are working to make sure no nursing home can sacrifice the safety of their residents just to add some dollars to their bottom line," the president said in a USA Today opinion piece.

The American Health Care Association, which lobbies for care facilities, called the proposal "unfathomable," saying it will worsen existing problems and cost homes billions of dollars.

"We hope to convince the administration to never finalize this rule as it is unfounded, unfunded, and unrealistic," said AHCA's president, Mark Parkinson, the former Democratic governor of Kansas.

The proposed rules, which now enter a public comment period and would take years more to fully take effect, call for staffing equivalent to 3 hours per resident per day, just over half an hour of it coming from registered nurses. The rules also call for facilities to have an RN on staff 24 hours a day, every day.

The average U.S. nursing home already has overall caregiver staffing of about 3.6 hours per resident per day, according to government reports, including RN staffing just above the half-hour mark.

Still, the government insists a majority of the country's roughly 15,000 nursing homes, which house some 1.2 million people, would have to add staff under the proposed rules.

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, who heads the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS, called the move "an important first step." CMS oversees nursing homes.

A senior White House official, speaking on the condition of anonymity ahead of the announcement, said the Biden administration was open to revisiting the staffing threshold once implemented.

"I would caution anyone who thinks that the status quo—in which there is no federal floor for nursing home staffing—is preferable to the standards we're proposing," said Stacy Sanders, an aide to Health Secretary Xavier Becerra. "This standard would raise staffing levels for more than 75% of nursing homes, bringing more nurse aides to the bedside and ensuring every nursing home has a registered nurse on site 24/7."

The new thresholds are drastically lower than those that had long been eyed by advocates after a landmark 2001 CMS-funded study recommended an average of 4.1 hours of nursing care per resident daily.

Most U.S. facilities don't meet that threshold. Many advocates said even it was insufficient, not taking into account quality of life, simply determining the point at which residents could suffer potential harm.

After the Democratic president elevated the issue in his State of the Union speech, advocates were initially elated, expecting the most significant change for residents since the Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987. That changed after a copy of a new CMS-funded study on the subject was inadvertently posted this week, claiming there is "no obvious plateau at which quality and safety are maximized."

GRMC rated as 'High Performing' hospital for stroke and COPD

DEDEDO, Guam—Guam Regional Medical City was recently selected by U.S. News & World Report as one of the nation's "High Performing" hospitals for stroke care (2nd consecutive year) and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease as part of the news organization's 2023-2024 Best Hospitals Procedures and Conditions Ratings.

U.S. News provides these rankings and ratings of hospitals annually as a tool for consumers to determine which facilities best cater to their age, physical condition, and type of illness. According to their website, "U.S. News's Best Hospitals project evaluates U.S. adult hospitals annually on how they provide 36 different types of care. The rankings of 15 medical specialties use a variety of quality measures to identify the hospitals that excel at handling the most complex and difficult cases." Of those specialties, GRMC was ranked in the top category of "High Performing" for stroke care and COPD among nearly 5,000 hospitals.

GRMC Stroke Program Coordinator Elisabeth Collins, DNP, APRN-NP said, "GRMC continues to evolve as a certified stroke center to improve care for the people of Guam and the entire Micronesian region. Our stroke program includes ongoing quality assurance and implementation of evidence-based practices. The goal of the stroke program is to improve stroke-related outcomes and to decrease the incidence, prevalence, and mortality of stroke, which remains in the top 5 leading causes of death in the United States."

Dr. Michael Agustin, pulmonologist and director of the GRMC Lung and Infectious Disease Center, said, "GRMC has created a comprehensive respiratory program that addresses one of the leading causes of illness on the island. We aim to further increase community awareness on COPD and encourage lifestyle modification, treatment options, and lung cancer screening."

For more information about the U.S. News and World 2023-2024 Best Hospitals Procedures and Condition Ratings for Stroke and COPD, visit the website at https://health.usnews.com. ***(PR)***

Nation

Biden tells Idalia's Florida victims 'your nation has your back'

» DeSantis rejects meeting with him

President Joe Biden speaks in front of a home damaged by fallen trees and debris following a survey of damage caused by Hurricane Idalia, Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023, in Live Oak, Fla. AP

LIVE OAK, Fla. (AP)—President Joe Biden on Saturday saw from the sky Hurricane Idalia's impact across a swath of Florida before he set out on a walking tour of a city recovering from the storm. Notably absent was Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican presidential candidate who declined to join Biden after he suggested that the Democrat's presence could hinder disaster response efforts.

Biden, when asked about his rival's absence, said he was not disappointed by the turn of events, but welcomed the presence of Rick Scott, one of the state's two Republican U.S. senators.

He pledged the federal government's total support for Floridians.

"I'm here today to deliver a clear message to the people of Florida and throughout the Southeast," Biden said after the walking tour. He spoke outdoors near a church that had parts of its sheet metal roof peeled back by Idalia's powerful winds and a home half crushed by a fallen tree.

"As I've told your governor, if there's anything your state needs, I'm ready to mobilize that support," he continued. "Anything they need related to these storms. Your nation has your back and we'll be with you until the job is done."

Earlier, the mayor of Live Oak, which is about 80 miles east of Tallahassee, the state capital, thanked Biden and first lady Jill Biden for coming and "showing us that we're important to you."

"Everybody thinks Florida is rich, but this is not one of the richest counties in the state and there are people who are suffering," said Frank Davis, adding he knew of no loss of life or serious injury.

At Suwannee Pineview Elementary School, where the Bidens were briefed on the storm damage, local officials offered praise for early disaster declarations by the White House and the quick flow of federal aid. "What the federal government is doing ... is a big deal," Scott said.

Helping Floridians and their communities get back on their feet was the emphasis at the briefing on response and recovery efforts, with DeSantis' conspicuous absence seemingly not a concern for residents and officials.

Deanne Criswell, the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, told reporters as the president flew from Washington that her team and the governor's team had "worked collectively" to determine that Biden would visit Live Oak. She said her teams "have heard no concerns over any impact to the communities that we're going to visit today."

On Friday, hours after Biden said he would be meeting with DeSantis, the governor's office issued a statement saying there were no plans for that. "In these rural communities, and so soon after impact, the security preparations alone that would go into setting up such a meeting would shut down ongoing recovery efforts," DeSantis spokesman Jeremy Redfern said in a statement.

DeSantis' office said his public schedule Saturday included stops in Keaton Beach, about 60 miles southwest of Live Oak, and Horseshoe Beach, about 75 miles away, with the last event beginning at 1:45 p.m.

Criswell said aboard the flight that power is being restored and the roads are all open in the area where Biden was going. "Access is not being hindered," she said, adding that her team had been in "close coordination" with the governor's staff.

Idalia made landfall Wednesday morning along Florida's sparsely populated Big Bend region as a Category 3 storm, causing widespread flooding and damage before moving north to drench Georgia and the Carolinas.

Thousands told to shelter in place at Burning Man fest

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Thousands of Burning Man attendees trudged in sloppy mud on Saturday—many barefoot or wearing plastic bags on their feet—as flooding from storms swept through the Nevada desert, forcing organizers to close vehicular access to the counterculture festival. Revelers were urged to shelter in place and conserve food, water and other supplies.

Vehicular gates will be closed for the remainder of the event, which began on Aug. 27 and was scheduled to end on Monday, according to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, which oversees the Black Rock Desert where the festival is being held.

More than one-half inch of rain is believed to have fallen on Friday at the festival site, located about 110 miles (177 kilometers) north of Reno, the National Weather Service in Reno said. At least another quarter of an inch of rain is expected Sunday.

The Reno Gazette Journal reported that organizers started rationing ice sales and that all vehicle traffic at the sprawling festival grounds had been stopped, leaving portable toilets unable to be serviced.

Officials haven't yet said when the entrance is expected to be opened again, and it wasn't immediately known when celebrants could leave the grounds.

The announcements came just before the culminating moment for the annual event—when a large wooden effigy was to be burned Saturday night.

Messages left Saturday afternoon by The Associated Press for both the Bureau of Land Management and the Pershing County Sheriff's Office, the agencies that closed the entrance, weren't immediately returned.

Many people played beer pong, danced and splashed in standing water, the Gazette Journal said. Mike Jed, a festivalgoer, and fellow campers made a bucket toilet so people didn't have to trudge as often through the mud to reach the portable toilets.

"If it really turns into a disaster, well, no one is going to have sympathy for us," Jed said. "I mean, it's Burning Man."

Police officer praised for reviving baby during traffic stop

WARREN, Mich. (AP)—A suburban Detroit police officer is being praised as a hero for saving the life of an 18-month-old boy after he stopped a car for speeding.

Warren Police Department Officer Brenden Fraser was watching for distracted drivers Tuesday when he stopped a Chevrolet Camaro going an estimated 75-80 mph (120-129 kilometers per hour).

"We got a baby in here dying!" the boy's mother told him.

Fraser saw the baby was turning blue and his eyes had rolled back.

"I look inside, and there's a child that's having some kind of medical emergency when the uncle hands him over to me," said Fraser. "He had spit and all types of saliva around his mouth. It looked like he was maybe choking, so I put him on my forearm, and I administered a couple of back blows to him when I felt some saliva and vomit fall onto my arm."

That got the boy breathing again.

"Watching it now, it's kind of overwhelming, but in the moment there's really not much thought other than relying on the training," Fraser said.

Warren Police Commissioner William Dwyer said the boy has been released from a hospital and is home with family. He praised Fraser for his quick thinking and action.

"Officer Fraser's actions on this traffic stop are nothing short of heroic," he said in a statement. "This incident shows that police work and traffic stops are not always about writing tickets or making arrests."

The family has not been publicly identified.

Shooting at Louisiana high school kills student and wounds a woman

PORT ALLEN, La. (AP)—Gunfire broke out during a high school football game on a warm late-summer evening in Louisiana, killing a 16-year old student and wounding a woman in the arm, authorities said Saturday.

Police have made no arrests and investigators still don't know why the violence erupted at halftime Friday in an area next to the stands, Sgt. Landon Groger with the West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office said.

A medical helicopter landed on the field at Port Allen High School and the two victims were rushed to the hospital, where the teen was pronounced dead, Groger said. The woman's injuries were not considered life-threatening.

The game was suspended as stunned spectators headed for the parking lot, which was filled with emergency vehicles.

"We don't know what led up to the event and we don't yet know if it was a targeted shooting or random," Groger said by phone Saturday, adding, "We want to take our time and cover this from all angles."

The West Baton Rouge School Board said crisis teams will be available to talk with and assist students when classes resume after Labor Day weekend.

"Our first priorities at this time are to assist the family of the student who died, and all our students, and to assist the West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office in its investigation," the board said in a statement Saturday.

Security would be increased at schools, and Superintendent Chandler Smith said the district will bolster existing programs "to teach our students that violence destroys many people's lives."

Port Allen, home to nearly 5,000 people, is located across the Mississippi River from Baton Rouge.

Asia

Taiwan suspends work, transport and classes as typhoon nears

BEIJING (AP)—Taiwan suspended flights, rail transport and ferry services along with classes, outdoor events, and officials urged workers to stay home as the island prepared for the arrival of Typhoon Haikui later Sunday.

The storm's approach came as Typhoon Saola continued to weaken while moving along the Chinese coast, where 900,000 people and 80,000 fishing vessels had been moved to safety and most of Hong Kong and parts of the coastal mainland closed down businesses, transport and schools.

Damage appeared to be minimal, however, and restrictions had largely been lifted by Sunday.

Parts of Taiwan were already feeling the effects of Haikui's heavy rain and high winds, and dozens of domestic flights were canceled, along with air services to Hong Kong and Macao. The storm had maximum sustained winds of 137 kph (85 mph), with gusts up to 173 kph (107 mph), according to the island's meteorological bureau.

Among events canceled was a hot air balloon festival in the central Taichung region, several outdoor concerts, art events and a baseball festival. National parks and treacherous roads in the island's mountainous center were also closed.

Haikui was expected to continue on toward China after crossing over Taiwan, and authorities in the Chinese city of Shantou in Guangdong province were advising residents to take precautions.

Because of Saoloa, workers in a number of Chinese cities stayed at home and students saw the start of their school year postponed from Friday to Monday. Trading on Hong Kong's stock market was suspended Friday and hundreds of people were stranded at the airport after about 460 flights were canceled in the key regional business and travel hub.

The cross-border bridge connecting Hong Kong, the gambling hub of Macao and manufacturing center of Zhuhai was closed at one point, with Macao leader Ho Iat Seng ordering a halt to casino operations.

As the storm side-swiped the densely populated financial center, the Hong Kong Observatory issued a No. 10 hurricane alert, the highest warning under the city's weather system for the first time since 2018.

However, by Saturday night, the observatory had canceled all warnings and the hundreds who had taken shelter at prepared facilities were returning home.

AP

Riders wait at the intersection under heavy rain as the Typhoon Haikui approaches the country, in Taipei, Taiwan, Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023.

In recent months, China has experienced some of its heaviest rains and deadliest flooding in years in various regions. Dozens of people have been killed, including in outlying mountainous parts of the capital, Beijing.

Hong Kong's government said various departments received reports of a total of 1,206 uprooted trees and flooding was reported in 18 areas. It said 75 people visited hospitals with storm-related injuries.

Despite the twin storms, China's military continued to conduct operations meant to intimidate Taiwan, a self-ruled democracy that Beijing seeks to bring under Chinese sovereignty by force if necessary.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it was monitoring the movements of Chinese military aircraft and navy ships near the island. However, it said there were no indications any had crossed the median line in the Taiwan Strait or entered Taiwan's air defense identification zone as they frequently do.

AFTER SUCCESSFUL LANDING NEAR MOON SOUTH POLE

India launches spacecraft to study the sun

INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION VIA AP

The screengrab from Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Youtube channel shows the Aditya-L1 spacecraft lifts off on board a satellite launch vehicle from the space center in Sriharikota, India, Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023.

NEW DELHI (AP)—India launched its first space mission to study the sun on Saturday, less than two weeks after a successful uncrewed landing near the south polar region of the moon.

The Aditya-L1 spacecraft took off on board a satellite launch vehicle from the Sriharikota space center in southern India on a quest to study the sun from a point about 1.5 million kilometers (930,000 miles) from Earth. The point, known as L1, affords an uninterrupted view of the sun.

The spacecraft is equipped with seven payloads to study the sun's corona, chromosphere, photosphere and solar wind, the Indian Space Research Organization said.

After over an hour, the ISRO said the launch was "accomplished successfully."

"The vehicle has placed the satellite precisely into its intended orbit. India's first solar observatory has begun its journey to the destination of Sun-Earth L1 point," ISRO posted on the X platform, formerly known as Twitter.

The satellite is scheduled to take 125 days to reach the L1 point.

India became the first country to land a spacecraft near the moon's south pole on Aug. 23—a historic voyage to uncharted territory that scientists believe could hold vital reserves of frozen water. After a failed attempt to land on the moon in 2019, India joined the United States, Russia and China as only the fourth country to achieve the milestone.

Jitendra Singh, India's junior minister for science and technology, praised the ISRO officials for their work on the latest launch.

"Congratulations India. Congratulations ISRO," he said while being present at the ISRO control room. "It's a sunshine moment for India."

The sun study, combined with India's successful moon landing, would completely change the image of the ISRO in the world community, said Manish Purohit, a former scientist at the research organization.

Hundreds of people who had gathered to watch the launch cheered as India's sun mission took off.

Among the spectators, Prakash, who gave only one name, said the launch was "one more milestone" like the country's recent moon mission. "This is going to set the bar high for ISRO," he said.

Pope joins shamans, monks, evangelicals to highlight Mongolia faith diversity, harmony

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia (AP)—With China's crackdown on religious minorities as a backdrop, Pope Francis joined Mongolian shamans, Buddhist monks and a Russian Orthodox priest Sunday to highlight the role that religions can play in forging world peace, as he presided over an interfaith meeting highlighting Mongolia's tradition of religious tolerance.

Francis listened intently as a dozen faith leaders—Jewish, Muslim, Bahai, Hindu, Shinto and evangelical Christian among them—described their beliefs and their relationship with heaven. Several said the traditional Mongolian ger, or round-shaped yurt, was a potent symbol of harmony with the divine—a warm place of family unity, open to the heavens, where strangers are welcome.

The interfaith event, held at a theater in the capital, Ulaanbaatar, came midway through Francis' four-day visit to Mongolia, the first by a pope. He is in Mongolia to minister to one of the world's smallest and newest Catholic communities and highlight Mongolia's tradition of tolerance in a region where the Holy See's relations with neighboring China and Russia are often strained.

According to statistics by the Catholic nonprofit group Aid to the Church in Need, Mongolia is 53% Buddhist, 39% atheist, 3% Muslim, 3% Shaman and 2% Christian.

Later Sunday, Francis was to preside over a Mass in the capital's sports stadium that the Vatican had said would also be attended by pilgrims from China. One small group of Chinese faithful from Xinjiang attended his meeting at the city's cathedral Saturday. They held up a Chinese flag and chanted "All Chinese love you" as his car drove by.

Pakistani traders strike countrywide vs. high inflation, utility bills

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani traders on Saturday went on strike against the soaring cost of living, including higher fuel and utility bills and record depreciation of the rupee against the dollar, which has led to widespread discontent among the public.

The traders pulled their shutters down across the country, while protesters burned tires on roads to express their anger.

The strike was called by ex-senator Sirajul Haq, who heads the religious political party Jamaat-e-Islami, and it was largely endorsed by trade and business bodies, market associations, lawyers associations and transporters.

The country's commercial and economic hub, Karachi, was almost completely closed and vehicle traffic was thin on roads, with all markets and shopping centers closed.

"We have shut our shops in protest so that our message reaches the ruling class. If they don't consider our problems, we will devise further strategies, said Fahad Ahmed, a trader in Karachi, adding, "If you pay 100,000 rupees ($330) in rent for your shop and you have to pay an equal amount in electricity bill, how can you survive?"

In the eastern city of Lahore, the capital of Punjab province, all the main markets were closed for the day, lawyers remained out of courts and intercity and local public transport weren't operating. The northwestern city of Peshawar and southwestern city of Quetta were partially closed.

Pakistan's annual inflation rate was 27.4% in August, according to data released by the state-run Bureau of Statistics.

World

Russia says it thwarted attacks on Crimea bridge

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia said Saturday its forces destroyed three Ukrainian naval drones being used in an attempt to attack a key bridge linking Russia to the Moscow-annexed Crimean Peninsula, forcing its temporary closure for a third time in less than a year.

One naval drone was destroyed late Friday and two others early Saturday morning, according to Russia's Defense Ministry. There was no immediate comment from Ukrainian officials.

The Kerch bridge, which is a key supply route for Kremlin forces in Russia's war with Ukraine, has come under repeated attack since Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

An explosion in October, which Russian authorities said was caused by a truck bomb, left three people dead. A further attack on the bridge in July, killing a couple and seriously wounding their daughter, left a span of the roadway hanging perilously.

The bridge connecting Crimea and Russia carries heavy significance for Moscow, both logistically and psychologically, as a key artery for military and civilian supplies and as an assertion of Kremlin control of the peninsula it annexed in 2014.

» Shelling and strikes leave at least 3 dead

On Saturday afternoon, one civilian was killed and two wounded during shelling of Russia's Belgorod region bordering Ukraine, Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said. Two Ukrainian drones attacked the region's Valuysky district, causing minor damage to a private home and car, while another drone was intercepted by Russian air defense in the Grayvoronsky district.

A woman was also wounded Saturday during shelling of a village in the neighboring Kursk region, also bordering Ukraine, regional Gov. Roman Starovoit said. He blamed Ukraine for the shelling.

Ukrainian authorities, which generally avoid commenting on attacks on Russian soil, didn't say whether they launched the attacks. Drone strikes and shelling on the Russian border regions are a regular occurrence.

Meanwhile, four people were wounded in the Ukrainian shelling of the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, Moscow-installed mayor Aleksei Kulemzin said Saturday. Donetsk is the regional capital of the eastern Ukrainian province of the same name, which was among the four Ukrainian provinces illegally annexed by Russia in September. The city came under the control of Russia-backed separatists in 2014.

The Ukrainian military said in a regular update Saturday that over the previous 24 hours, Russia had launched four missile strikes and 39 airstrikes, in addition to 42 attacks from multiple rocket launchers.

AP

A Ukrainian self-propelled artillery system fires towards the Russian positions at the front line near Bakhmut, Donetsk region, Ukraine, Friday, Sept. 1, 2023.

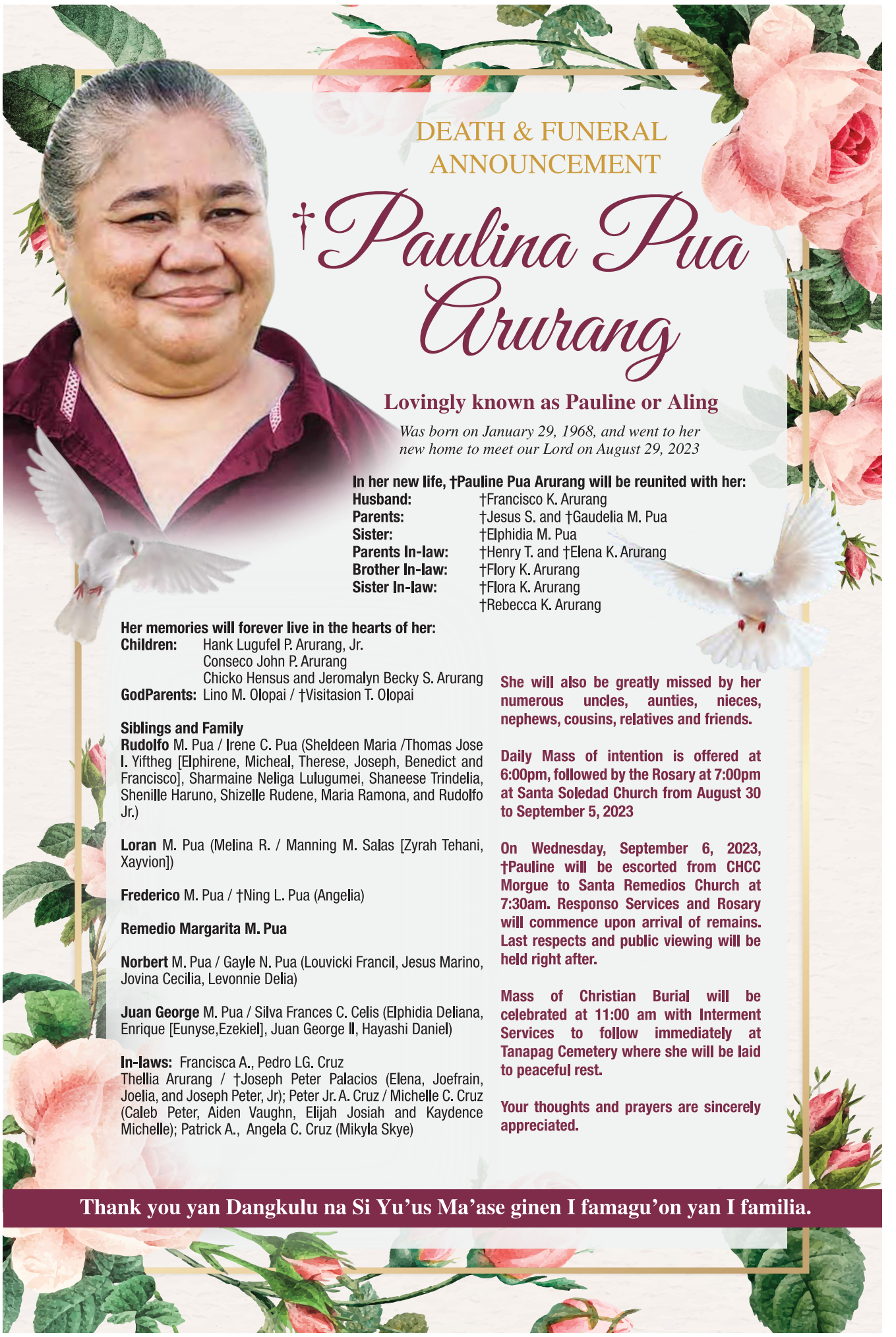
WORLD BRIEFS

18 people have been killed in Iraq after a bus carrying Shiite pilgrims to Karbala overturned

BAGHDAD (AP)—A bus carrying pilgrims to the Iraqi city of Karbala overturned north of Baghdad on Saturday, killing 18 people, medical officials said. Millions of believers converge on the city each year for the Shiite pilgrimage of Arbaeen, regarded as the largest annual public gathering in the world. Pilgrims come from various parts of Iraq as well as from Iran and the Gulf countries, with many making their way to Karbala on foot. Two Iraqi medical officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to the media said that the bus overturned near the town of Balad, about 55 miles (90 kilometers) north of Baghdad. The victims were 15 men and three women. Among them were 10 Iranians, two Iraqis—the bus driver and his son—and six people of unknown nationality, the officials said.

An attack on a Chinese mining convoy carrying gold in Congo leaves 4 dead, authorities say

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—An attack on a Chinese mining convoy transporting gold in northeast Congo killed four people, including two Chinese nationals, authorities said Friday. Sammy Badibanga Kalonji, administrator of the Fizi territory where the attack took place, said a Congolese soldier, a driver and two Chinese nationals were killed in the armed robbery near the Kimbo river. Three people were seriously wounded in the attack, including a Congolese soldier and a worker, Kalonji said. The wounded were receiving treatment in a local hospital. Kalonji said the assailants stole a "large quantity" of gold from the convoy, which belonged to a Chinese mining company operating in the restive South Kivu province. He had no additional details.


DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT
†Paulina Pua Arurang
Lovingly known as Pauline or Aling
Was born on January 29, 1968, and went to her new home to meet our Lord on August 29, 2023
In her new life, †Pauline Pua Arurang will be reunited with her:
Husband: †Francisco K. Arurang
Parents: †Jesus S. and †Gaudelia M. Pua
Sister: †Elphidia M. Pua
Parents In-law: †Henry T. and †Elena K. Arurang
Brother In-law: †Flory K. Arurang
Sister In-law: †Flora K. Arurang
†Rebecca K. Arurang
Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Children: Hank Lugufel P. Arurang, Jr.
Conseco John P. Arurang
Chicko Hensus and Jeromalyn Becky S. Arurang
GodParents: Lino M. Olopai / †Visitasion T. Olopai
Siblings and Family
Rudolfo M. Pua / Irene C. Pua (Sheldeen Maria /Thomas Jose I. Yiftheg [Elphirene, Micheal, Therese, Joseph, Benedict and Francisco], Sharmaine Neliga Lulugumei, Shaneese Trindelia, Shenille Haruno, Shizelle Rudene, Maria Ramona, and Rudolfo Jr.)
Loran M. Pua (Melina R. / Manning M. Salas [Zyrah Tehani, Xayvion])
Frederico M. Pua / †Ning L. Pua (Angelia)
Remedio Margarita M. Pua
Norbert M. Pua / Gayle N. Pua (Louvicki Francil, Jesus Marino, Jovina Cecilia, Levonnie Delia)
Juan George M. Pua / Silva Frances C. Celis (Elphidia Deliana, Enrique [Eunyse,Ezekiel], Juan George II, Hayashi Daniel)
In-laws: Francisca A., Pedro LG. Cruz
Thellia Arurang / †Joseph Peter Palacios (Elena, Joefrain, Joelia, and Joseph Peter, Jr); Peter Jr. A. Cruz / Michelle C. Cruz (Caleb Peter, Aiden Vaughn, Elijah Josiah and Kaydence Michelle); Patrick A., Angela C. Cruz (Mikyla Skye)
She will also be greatly missed by her numerous uncles, aunties, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.
Daily Mass of intention is offered at 6:00pm, followed by the Rosary at 7:00pm at Santa Soledad Church from August 30 to September 5, 2023
On Wednesday, September 6, 2023, †Pauline will be escorted from CHCC Morgue to Santa Remedios Church at 7:30am. Responso Services and Rosary will commence upon arrival of remains. Last respects and public viewing will be held right after.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am with Interment Services to follow immediately at Tanapag Cemetery where she will be laid to peaceful rest.
Your thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.
Thank you yan Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen I famagu'on yan I familia.

Health & Wellness

How young athletes can reduce their risk of injury

By ALEX OSIADACZ
Mayo Clinic News Network

More than half of children in the U.S. ages 6 to 17 participate in sports. With participation also comes the painful reality of injuries that happen during gameplay.

Dr. Wes Troyer, a Mayo Clinic physical medicine and rehabilitation physician, explains how to reduce children's risk of sports injuries.

From strikes and strains to footwork and fractures, injuries can happen to any young athlete.

Reducing the risk of injury starts with an annual physical to make sure children can participate. When it's time to play, warm up muscles by stretching, and use protective equipment, when appropriate.

From strikes and strains to footwork and fractures, injuries can happen to any young athlete. MATIMIX/DREAMSTIME/TNS

"It's important to try out your equipment before you get into game-time situations to make sure it works properly, so that it's actually protecting you when you're going out there to perform the sport," says Dr. Troyer.

Try to avoid overusing certain muscles over others. Repeated motions can happen around growth plates and may require young athletes to pause certain activities.

"They need time to rest because they've put too much stress on the area. And without that, they just don't heal," says Dr. Troyer.

If children are injured playing a sport, keep them out of competition until they can be evaluated.

"The worst thing that you can do is get up and try to play through these things and make the injury worse," says Dr. Troyer.

Back-to-school physicals essential for all ages

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: I always have a million things to do before my three children return to school. How important are back-to-school physicals, and is it critical to schedule one for my college-bound child and my younger kids?

ANSWER: Late summer is often a busy time of purchasing school supplies, finding new clothes, and wrapping up summer vacations. Most kids need a well-child visit every year from age 3 to 21. So, adding a back-to-school physical to your list is valuable, especially for your older child, since there are increased risks for adolescents with some illnesses.

Getting a back-to-school physical done before summer ends is essential for many reasons.

Getting a back-to-school physical done before summer ends is essential for many reasons. DREAMSTIME/TNS

Monitoring developmental process

During a routine physical, your primary care team will evaluate all your child's body systems to ensure there are no apparent problems. It is a great time to review eyesight, hearing and growth concerns. This lets you catch any problems early and get your child the best early intervention resources before the next school year starts.

Reviewing immunizations and medications

A physical involves reviewing your child's immunization records to ensure that he or she is up to date with all required immunizations. Your child's school—including college—may require this information before they can begin the new school year. Also, certain vaccines may be valuable - such as HPV and meningitis, which can affect people of any age, but it spreads easily among those living in close quarters. Hence, teens, college students, and boarding-school students are at higher risk for a meningitis infection.

Also, a well-child visit is ideal for reviewing prescriptions and any over-the-counter medications. You can get forms signed that any of your children may need and ensure refills are ordered for your college-bound student.

Sharing safety information

Giving your older child an opportunity to discuss safe behaviors, which could include discussions about sexually transmitted diseases, substance and alcohol use, and driving safety, is invaluable. The discussions can lead to prevention and/or early invention regarding unsafe behaviors, keeping your child healthy and safer in the long term.

Discussing athlete care

Scheduling time for student-athletes is valuable to ensure they are ready to play sports and be active, especially if your children had a more leisurely summer. Another plus to a back-to-school physical is the opportunity to discuss healthy eating, safe exercise practices and how to reduce the risk of injury while playing sports. Depending upon your child's sports, a baseline concussion test may be in order and information on how to manage return to play after a concussion.

Mental health and wellbeing

A back-to-school physical is also a great time to review cognitive or behavioral concerns. Does your child have trouble sleeping before a new school year starts? Is your child anxious when they take tests? Do you get reports that they are easily distracted or disruptive in class?

Sometimes these issues can have physical origins, such as poor eyesight. But a discussion about your child's mental health can be just as valuable as trying to uncover any concerns about aches, pains or eating habit changes.

Maintaining a relationship with your physician

By staying up to date with a routine physical, your child will also benefit from maintaining a relationship with their healthcare professional. As they grow older, each visit allows the child to develop important communication skills when discussing their health with their healthcare team. To make things easier on yourself, write down a list of questions about your child's health before your visit. You may go over many of the points during the exam, but you should have time to ask questions to ensure your child's overall health and well-being.—Dr. Tina Ardon , Family Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida *(Mayo Clinic News Network)*

MAYO CLINIC MINUTE

A parent's playbook for sports screenings

By SONYA GOINS
Mayo Clinic News Network

Summer is winding down, and soon kids will be heading onto the field to play their favorite fall sports. But before they can check into the game, they have to head into the doctor's office for sports screenings.

It's generally required that young athletes get a preparticipation exam before participating in organized activities. The exams aren't just a formality. It's to ensure your child's safety and check to see if they are physically able to play.

Dr. Matthew Anastasi, a Mayo Clinic sports medicine physician, explains what parents should look for when it comes to sports exams.

"It's very important to identify any potential risk that they may be exposed to before their participation in the respective sport," says Dr. Anastasi.

A typical sports screening includes assessing vision, heart and lungs. Sports medicine specialists also will look at the joints.

"Really focusing on all the joints, ranging from neck, shoulders, elbows, and then moving down to lower extremity hips, knees, ankles," says Dr. Anastasi.

A thorough exam also includes going over medical and family history. This will help identify underlying conditions that might put a child at risk during physical activity.

Dr. Anastasi says sports screenings are not substitutes for health maintenance exams. He also recommends young athletes get a yearly sports physical.

"It's a great opportunity to really identify if something is normal or abnormal, and also to help that athlete succeed at the highest level of his or her ability," says Dr. Anastasi.

Life & Style

Taylor Swift Eras Tour concert film coming to movie theaters in October

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift's Eras Tour is coming to movie theaters.

Swift announced Thursday that the concert film "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" will open in North American theaters Oct. 13. The theater chain AMC, anticipating high demand from Swift fans, said the film will play at least four times a day Thursday, Fridays, Saturday and Sundays at all of its U.S. locations.

"The Eras Tour has been the most meaningful, electric experience of my life so far and I'm overjoyed to tell you that it'll be coming to the big screen soon," Swift said on social media channels.

Prices will be higher than usual movie tickets. An adult ticket will cost $19.89 ("1989 (Taylor's Version)" is coming soon) and a child ticket is priced at $13.13 (seemingly a nod to her favorite number). Advance sales began Thursday.

In an usual move, AMC is also acting as distributor for the film. ("The Eras Tour" will additionally play in other chains.) AMC said in anticipation of the announcement, it upgraded its website to handle more than five times the largest ticket buying rush it's experienced before.

Backstreet Boys' Nick Carter facing civil suits in Vegas alleging sexual assault decades ago

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Backstreet Boys singer Nick Carter has won a favorable ruling in one of two civil lawsuits filed against him in Nevada, one by a woman who alleges he raped her on his tour bus in Washington state in 2001 and another by a woman who alleges he sexually assaulted her on his boat off Florida in 2003.

A state court judge on Wednesday declined to dismiss a countersuit that Carter and his attorneys brought alleging defamation by three people in the first case, which was filed last December by a Nevada woman, now 40, who alleges that Carter attacked her on his tour bus after a concert in Tacoma, Washington, when she was 17 years old.

"He told plaintiff she would go to jail if she told anyone what happened between them," the woman's lawsuit said. "He said that he was Nick Carter and that he had the power to do that."

The other case involving the Florida allegations was filed Monday in Clark County District Court.

Carter, now 43, lives in Las Vegas. He has denied the allegations of sexual battery and infliction of emotional distress the two women make against him. Each woman seeks unspecified monetary damages greater than $30,000.

AP

Nick Carter of the Backstreet Boys arrives at Wango Tango, May 13, 2017, in Carson, Calif.

Carter appeared with his attorney in court Wednesday when Clark County District Court Judge Nancy Allf declined to dismiss his counterclaim accusing three people—including a third woman who alleged he raped her in 2003—of defamation, conspiracy and abuse of process.

The judge's decision means that woman, Melissa Schuman, and her father, Jerome Schuman, will have to answer Carter's allegations that they have waged a campaign to profit from his fame. Carter is seeking more than $2.3 million in damages.

"For years, Melissa and Jerome Schuman have been conspiring with anyone they could manipulate to drum up false claims against Nick Carter in a brazen attempt to get rich off of him," Carter's attorney, Liane Wakayama said in a statement Thursday to The Associated Press.

Schuman lost her bid in California in 2018 to have prosecutors bring a criminal complaint against Carter based on her allegation that he forced her into sex in his Los Angeles-area apartment.

Carter has denied Schulman's accusations that he raped her. He did not speak during Wednesday's court hearing.

Attorney Alan Greenberg, representing the Schumans, maintained in court that Carter was a public figure, that the allegations against him have merit and that Melissa Schuman reported to two friends and a therapist in 2003 that she had been sexually assaulted.

The Associated Press generally does not name people who say they were sexually assaulted, but Schuman has spoken publicly about her experience and approved of the use of her name.

Oprah Winfrey, Dwayne Johnson launch fund with $10 million for displaced Maui residents

By THALIA BEATY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oprah Winfrey and Dwayne Johnson have committed $10 million to make direct payments to people on Maui who are unable to return to their homes because of the wildfires, through a new fund they announced Thursday.

The People's Fund of Maui will give $1,200 a month to adults who are not able to return to their primary residences because of the recent wildfires, including people who owned and rented their homes, according to the fund's website. The fund will also seek donations to extend the length of time it can provide the support.

"How do we help?" the "Young Rock" star said he and Winfrey asked each other during the wildfires, saying in a video released along with the announcement that they grappled with how to best direct their efforts. "You want to take care of the greatest need of the people, and that's giving them money."

They are looking forward to the help of "every person who called me and said, 'What can I do?'" Winfrey said in the video. "This is what you can do."

The pair were inspired by a similar fund set up by Dolly Parton after wildfires swept through Gatlinburg, Tennessee in December 2016, killing 14 people and destroying 2,400 structures.

Jeff Conyers, president of The Dollywood Foundation, said he consulted with Winfrey's team multiple times in the past weeks to share the lessons that they'd learned from administrating the fund, which eventually granted $11 million to families who had lost their homes.

'Margaritaville' singer Jimmy Buffett dies at 76

NEW YORK (AP)—Singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett, who popularized beach bum soft rock with the escapist Caribbean-flavored song "Margaritaville" and turned that celebration of loafing into a billion-dollar empire of restaurants, resorts and frozen concoctions, has died. He was 76.

"Jimmy passed away peacefully on the night of September 1st surrounded by his family, friends, music and dogs," a statement posted to Buffett's official website and social media pages said late Friday. "He lived his life like a song till the very last breath and will be missed beyond measure by so many."

The statement did not say where Buffett died or give a cause of death. Illness had forced him to reschedule concerts in May and Buffett acknowledged in social media posts that he had been hospitalized, but provided no specifics.

"Margaritaville," released on Feb. 14, 1977, quickly took on a life of its own, becoming a state of mind for those "wastin' away," an excuse for a life of low-key fun and escapism for those "growing older, but not up."

The song is the unhurried portrait of a loafer on his front porch, watching tourists sunbathe while a pot of shrimp is beginning to boil. The singer has a new tattoo, a likely hangover and regrets over a lost love. Somewhere, irritatingly, there is a misplaced salt shaker.

"What seems like a simple ditty about getting blotto and mending a broken heart turns out to be a profound meditation on the often painful inertia of beach dwelling," Spin magazine wrote in 2021. "The tourists come and go, one group indistinguishable from the other. Waves crest and break whether somebody is there to witness it or not. Everything that means anything has already happened and you're not even sure when."

Man prefers spending more on breakfast than babies

DEAR ABBY: My husband is tired of paying to keep my eggs frozen. He has seven children of his own. I know utility costs are through the roof these days, but I can't disagree with him more.

He meets up with his friends at the breakfast joint every weekend, and they drop a lot of money there. If he just reallocated his spending money, we could afford to continue freezing my eggs. I keep telling him, "You're spending money on the wrong eggs!" I'd like to have a baby within the next year. What should I do?

FREEZING IN FARGO

DEAR FREEZING: If your husband doesn't already know how important having your own child is to you, now is the time to impress it upon him. I am sorry you didn't mention how long he has been paying for freezing your eggs, but if you hope to conceive next year, he can afford to continue paying a few months longer. Would his preference be that you remain childless? If that's the case and you have been misled, you might want to consult a family law attorney.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was invited to the wedding of my friend's daughter, "Alexa." Alexa and her fiance's registry requested only money to go toward a honeymoon. About a week before the wedding, I sent a monetary gift via their online wedding registry.

The next day, I heard the wedding had been postponed indefinitely, although they are still together. I feel the right thing for them to do is to return my money, but it appears they don't intend to do so. Should I ask for my gift to be returned? What is the protocol?

TRICKED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR TRICKED: In light of the fact that the wedding (and honeymoon to which you contributed) have been canceled, you have every right to ask for your gift to be returned. Suggest it first to Alexa, and if the money isn't forthcoming, tell your friend. What her daughter did could be considered fraud.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend of 17 years is constantly coming at me looking for an argument lately. I can't figure it out for the life of me. We have built a nice life. We have a child together, a house and two dogs. She has recently been saying something about perimenopause, which I know nothing about. I love what we have and I don't want to lose it, but I have no clue how to fix it. Please advise me so I don't lose my family.

FEARFUL IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR FEARFUL: Go online and search "perimenopause." This is a time in women's lives when our hormone levels are changing, which can affect sleep, mood and body temperature, among other things.

This is something every woman experiences sooner or later, and it's important you understand it. Volumes have been written on the subject, which will help you gain empathy and insight. Because this is causing challenges in your relationship, don't procrastinate. Start now.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

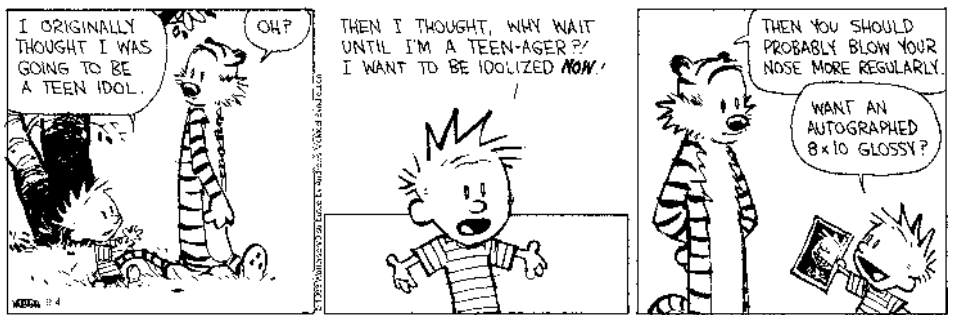
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

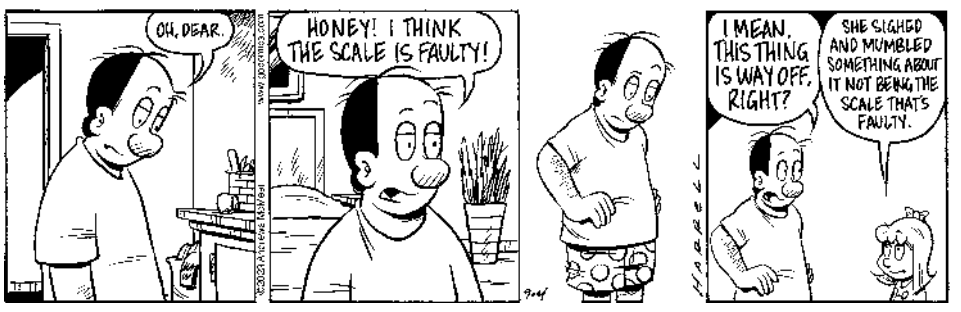

I ORIGINALLY THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE A TEEN IDOL.
OH?
THEN I THOUGHT, WHY WAIT UNTIL I'M A TEEN-AGER? I WANT TO BE IDOLIZED NOW!
THEN YOU SHOULD PROBABLY BLOW YOUR NOSE MORE REGULARLY.
I WANT AN AUTOGRAPHED 8×10 GLOSSY?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset


OH, DEAR.
HONEY! I THINK THE SCALE IS FAULTY!
I MEAN, THIS THING IS WAY OFF, RIGHT?
SHE SIGHED AND MUMBLED SOMETHING ABOUT IT NOT BEING THE SCALE THAT'S FAULTY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW DO YOU THINK YOU'LL LIKE TEACHING 3rd GRADE, GINA?
I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS.
I HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND LITTLE KIDS FOR A WHILE. I NEED TO GET RE-ACCUSTOMED TO THEIR LEVEL OF IMMATURITY.
WANT TO COME AND HANG OUT WHILE ENO WATCHES CARTOONS?
THAT WOULD HELP.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Apple desktop computer
5 Tic- — -toe
8 Bacterium
12 Karate school
13 Conceit
14 Novelist Seton
15 Skin care brand
16 September celebration
18 Saunter
20 Industry tycoons
21 Hardy lass
23 Not "agin"
24 Time near a deadline
28 Romanov ruler
31 Swiss canton
32 Stag
34 Big bird of Australia
35 Understands
37 Fortunate sort
39 Hearty brew
41 "Take — Train"
42 Cancels
45 Fesses up
49 Gave up, as arms
51 Pack — (prepare for travel)
52 Pharmaceutical
53 Parking place
54 Male red deer
55 Pinnacle
56 — Moines
57 Newspaper section

DOWN

1 Altar vows
2 Shed
3 Slightly open
4 Road Runner's foe
5 Spills the beans
6 Khan title
7 — salad
8 Attic
9 Supported
10 Gosling or Reynolds
11 Baseball legend Willie
17 Klutz
19 Spartan queen
22 Portly
24 Schlep
25 "Where — you?"
26 Element No. 22
27 Bewitches
29 I love (Lat.)
30 Bad hairpiece
33 Scratched (out)
36 Mire
38 Motorcycle maker
40 Days of yore
42 Emmy winner Alan
43 Dealer's foe
44 Auctioneer's cry
46 Construction piece
47 Small fruit pie
48 USMC ranks
50 Misery

Solution time: 21 mins.

W	A	S	H	■	F	U	I	■	Y	D	S	
A	I	T	I	■	A	N	T	F	■	O	U	R
Y	O	U	D	F	C	I	D	F	■	U	S	A
S	U	B	D	U	F	■	■	R	A	F	T	S
■	■	■	F	R	■	S	U	S	H	I	■	■
B	R	Y	N	■	C	O	P	■	A	R	G	O
E	C	O	■	■	H	A	D	■	■	S	I	N
G	L	U	E	■	O	V	O	■	O	F	I	O
■	■	O	L	L	I	E	■	D	R	■	■	■
H	A	W	K	E	■	■	M	I	A	S	M	A
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M	U	M	■	I	A	■	A	■	E	R	S	I
S	T	E	■	E	K	E	S	■	D	O	S	E

Last Friday's Answer

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19		■	20					
■	■	■	21			22	■	23			■	■
24	25	26					27	■	28		29	30
31			■	32				33	■	34		
35			36	■	37				38			
■	■	39		40	■	41				■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49						50		■	51			
52				■	53				54			
55				■	56			■	57			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Whitney Cummings, 41; Beyonce Knowles, 42; Max Greenfield, 44; Wes Bentley, 45.

Happy Birthday: You'll gain ground if you learn as you go. A chance to make a long overdue change will help restructure how you live and allocate your time. Balancing your life to ensure you divide work and playtime equally will give you a positive attitude that will carry through into meaningful relationships. Creative thinking will help you find options that offer peace of mind and a brighter future. Your numbers are 5, 12, 21, 25, 36, 44, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Do something to lift your spirits. Get those endorphins working; you'll accomplish something spectacular. Personal improvements, physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle change will point you in the right direction. Share your thoughts and plans with someone you want by your side. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Networking, researching and communicating are to your benefit. Don't ignore an unexpected opportunity. Your timing is good, but don't miss out on a chance to explore something interesting by hesitating. Be ready to take advantage of whatever comes your way. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't share secrets. Get your plans ready before displaying your agenda. Jealousy will cause criticism, not honest input. Put your energy where it will do the most for you instead of wasting your time doing something for someone who doesn't appreciate you. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't let anything stop you. Look at what you can do. Use your intelligence and creativity to develop alternatives that will help you explore your options and map out a plan of attack. Look to those you can count on to contribute. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Be cautious when someone asks for something. Question what's entailed and consider the impact it can have on your responsibilities. Take a tally of what's physically possible and offer suggestions rather than committing to something that can cause stress. Protect yourself. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take a mental picture of how you see your life unfolding and turn it into a reality. Talk is cheap, but actions show you mean business. Refuse to let someone's negativity get to you. Use your imagination to reach your goal. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Pay attention to where your money goes. Don't feel pressured to invest, donate or pay for others. Concentrate on your well-being and revamp your exercise routine to usher in stellar health. Put effort into making your living space functional. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You can make a difference using your knowledge and skills to help others. Partner with someone who can offer something of value in return. Your patience, insight and discipline will result in respect from people who can help you advance. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Move forward cautiously. Not everyone is on your side. Listen, assess what's real and refuse to let anyone lure you down a rabbit hole. Think positively, but don't let others decide your fate. Do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Share your thoughts, shed light on situations and adjust to trends. Go with the flow and make your life easy. Keep your money and possessions in a safe place, and you'll have nothing to worry about. Don't get angry; change, adjust and proceed. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Revisit your choices and put your energy where it will help you the most. Say no to persuasive people encouraging you to behave poorly or get involved in something that doesn't appeal to you. Make personal growth and a healthy lifestyle your priorities. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll gain momentum if you set your sights on something that interests you. Consider your skills and qualifications and how to apply what you enjoy doing most to careers that offer opportunities to hone your attributes. Don't settle for less; shoot for the stars. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are open-minded, enthusiastic and kind. You are dedicated and wise.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6	4		1	9				
2		3			6	9		
	5		2	3	4	6	8	
8		4	5	1		3		9
	9			7	8	1		6
7		1		6			5	
9	1			4				2
	8					7	6	
	2	6						

Difficulty: ★ 9/4

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	5	9	8	3	1	2	6	7
2	1	3	5	7	6	8	9	4
7	8	6	9	2	4	3	1	5
8	4	2	1	9	7	5	3	6
1	9	5	3	6	8	7	4	2
3	6	7	4	5	2	9	8	1
9	2	1	7	4	3	6	5	8
5	7	8	6	1	9	4	2	3
6	3	4	2	8	5	1	7	9

Difficulty: ★★★★ 9/1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BROASTED CHICKEN Solution: 6 letters

D	G	E	Z	I	R	E	V	L	U	P	A	N	S	I
H	R	N	Y	C	I	U	J	I	R	C	P	R	G	L
M	C	U	I	E	I	C	O	O	K	A	O	U	N	I
O	B	R	M	D	A	R	A	R	P	N	T	O	I	H
I	T	Y	A	S	A	S	E	B	S	O	S	L	W	C
S	H	B	U	T	T	E	R	M	I	L	K	F	A	T
T	I	S	R	E	S	I	R	T	R	A	E	Y	P	S
U	G	T	D	E	R	N	C	B	C	U	E	R	A	M
R	H	O	K	N	A	P	R	K	S	N	T	R	P	A
E	S	V	V	T	P	S	T	O	N	G	S	U	R	R
D	P	E	M	E	E	E	T	E	C	P	E	C	I	I
I	I	T	R	I	N	V	P	C	O	O	L	L	K	N
V	C	O	A	D	R	D	I	P	P	E	D	A	A	A
I	E	P	E	R	U	T	A	R	E	P	M	E	T	T
D	S	R	S	K	I	L	L	E	T	R	A	C	K	E

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Breading, Breast, Broil, Buttermilk, Canola, Cayenne, Chili, Cook, Cool, Cornstarch, Crisp, Curry, Dipped, Divide, Drumstick, Flour, Juicy, Legs, Marinate, Moisture, Oven, Panko, Pans, Paprika, Pepper, Plate, Pots, Pulverize, Rack, Roasted, Salt, Sear, Skillet, Spices, Stovetop, Temperature, Tender, Thighs, Thyme, Tongs, Trim, Trivet, Turmeric, Wings

Last Friday's Answer: Twizzlers

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Germany, Slovenia, US, and Lithuania make World Cup quarterfinals

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Luka Doncic and Slovenia are headed to the World Cup quarterfinals. So are the U.S., Germany and Lithuania.

Out of the mix: Olympic bronze medalist Australia.

Half of the World Cup quarterfinal field is now set, after those four nations won their opening second-round games Friday to secure spots in the knockout round. And the other half of the quarterfinal field will be decided Sunday, after four winner-take-all games.

The U.S. rallied to hold off Montenegro 85-73 in Group J, and Lithuania topped Greece 92-67 in the late game in that group. The Americans and Lithuania are both 4-0 now; Greece and Montenegro fell to 2-2 and cannot catch the leaders with one game remaining for those teams in Round 2.

The top two teams in each of four, four-team, second-round groups make the quarterfinals.

Slovenia topped Australia 91-80 and Germany ran past Georgia 100-73 in Group K second-round games Friday. Those outcomes ensured that Slovenia and Germany will finish first and second in that group, in some order, and both are off to the quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, chaos reigns in the other two groups.

In Group I, Puerto Rico and Italy won, Serbia and the Dominican Republic lost. In Group L, Brazil and Latvia won, defending champion Spain and Canada lost. In both groups, every team is 3-1—and that means all eight of those teams are facing win-or-go-home games Sunday.

AP

Latvia supporters cheer during the Basketball World Cup second round match between Spain and Latvia at the Indonesia Arena stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia, Friday, Sept. 1, 2023.

GROUP I
PUERTO RICO 102, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 97

At Manila, Tremont Waters had 37 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds, and Puerto Rico kept its World Cup hopes alive by winning a wild one over the Dominican Republic.

George Conditt scored 18 for Puerto Rico, which led by 16 points, then got down by 11, then came back to win anyway.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 39 points and 10 rebounds for the Dominican Republic. Andres Feliz had 22 points on 7-for-8 shooting.

GROUP I
ITALY 78, SERBIA 76

At Manila, Simone Fontecchio scored 30 points and added seven rebounds, and Marco Spissu had 14 points for Italy (3-1) to put itself in the thick of the race for the quarterfinals.

Italy hit 11 of 21 of its 3-pointers, which proved to be the difference against a poor-shooting Serbia.

The loss was the first in the tournament for Serbia (3-1). Bogdanovic led the losers with 18 points, but hit only 1 of 13 3-point attempts. As a team, Serbia made 7 of 31 from 3-point range. Ognjen Dobric added 15 points for Serbia.

On Sunday, Italy faces Puerto Rico and Serbia has the Dominican Republic. It's real simple: The winners go to the quarterfinals and the losers are out of the World Cup.

GROUP K
SLOVENIA 91, AUSTRALIA 80

At Okinawa, Luka Doncic scored 19 points, Mike Tobey added 18 points and 12 rebounds and Slovenia advanced. It was a rematch of the bronze-medal game in the Tokyo Olympics, won by Australia.

Klemen Prepelic had 11 points and Gregor Hrovat added 10 for Slovenia (4-0), which never trailed.

Josh Giddey had 25 points for Australia (2-2), and Patty Mills scored 17. Dante Exum added 13.

GROUP K
GERMANY 100, GEORGIA 73

At Okinawa, Maodo Lo scored 18 points, with 16 from Dennis Schroder and Moritz Wagner adding 14, and Germany (4-0) had balanced scoring with six players in double figures.

In a game loaded with NBA talent, San Antonio's Sandro Mamukelashvili led Georgia (2-2) with 19 points and Goga Bitadze chipped in 15. Tornike Shengelia added 12.

Georgia led for much of the first half, but Germany took control in the last minute and led 22-16 after 10 minutes. Germany held the lead 43-41 at the half and pulled away for good in the third quarter.

On Sunday, Germany plays Slovenia and Georgia goes against Australia.

GROUP J
LITHUANIA 92, GREECE 67

At Manila, Rokas Jokubaitis scored 19 points, Ignas Brazdeikis added 18 and Lithuania (4-0) outscored Greece 53-24 in the second half.

Jonas Valanciunas and Elmantas Bendzius each had 15 for the winners.

Thomas Walkup finished with 21 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for Greece (2-2). Giannoulis Larentzakis scored 17 for Greece.

GROUP L
BRAZIL 69, CANADA 65

At Jakarta, Bruno Caboclo had 19 points and 13 rebounds and Brazil outscored previously unbeaten Canada 24-13 in the final quarter.

Gui Santos added 10 for Brazil, which held Canada to 33% shooting.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 23 and Lu Dort added 17 for Canada.

GROUP L
LATVIA 74, SPAIN 69

At Jakarta, Davis Bertans scored 16 and Rodions Kurucs added 13 and Latvia (3-1) handed defending champion Spain (3-1) its first loss of the World Cup. Spain—which had won 11 consecutive World Cup games—crumbled in the final quarter and was outscored 27-11.

Bertans' 3-pointer with just under 3 minutes left put Latvia up for good.

Willy Hernangomez led Spain with 14 points and Dario Brizuela and Usman Garuba each had 11.

Spain faces Canada on Sunday and Lativa plays Brazil. The winners go to the quarterfinals; the losers are done.

US rallies to beat Montenegro, 85-73, at World Cup, reaches quarterfinals

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Everything had looked so easy for the U.S. at the Basketball World Cup. Points were coming in bunches, final scores were blowouts and stress wasn't a problem.

Until Friday.

If the Americans were waiting for a serious test at the World Cup, they can wait no more. Facing a 26.5-point underdog in Montenegro in a second-round opener for both teams, they trailed by a point at the half, didn't take the lead for good until midway through the third quarter and still had a contest on their hands until the final minutes.

They found a way in the end, winning 85-73 to remain unbeaten. And that result, combined with Lithuania's win later Friday over Greece, sent the Americans to the quarterfinals regardless of what happens Sunday against Lithuania.

"These games are going to happen," U.S. coach Steve Kerr said. "And you have to be able to fight through them. I thought our guys did a great job of that."

AP

Montenegro center Nikola Vucevic (4) blocks the shot of U.S. guard Anthony Edwards (10) during the second half of a Basketball World Cup second round match in Manila, Philippines Friday, Sept. 1, 2023.

Anthony Edwards scored all of his team-high 17 points in the second half for the Americans (4-0), who got 12 from Austin Reaves and 11 from Jaren Jackson Jr. Mikal Bridges and Tyrese Haliburton each added 10 for the U.S., which didn't pull away until late in the fourth.

"It wasn't the prettiest game," Haliburton said. "But what FIBA games really are?"

Nikola Vucevic had 18 points and 16 rebounds for Montenegro, which led 39-38 at the half. Kendrick Perry scored 14 for Montenegro (2-2).

It was a must-win for the country, and it darn near pulled off a stunner.

"We played well and we made it as tough for them as we could," said Vucevic, who plays for the Chicago Bulls. "But in the end, quality prevailed."

The U.S. led 61-55 going into the fourth and tacked a point on to make it a seven-point edge—its biggest of the game to that point—early in the final quarter.

Montenegro just wouldn't go away. A 3-pointer by Nikola Ivanovic got the underdogs within 64-62 with 7:15 remaining, and the Americans couldn't exhale until the final seconds—a far cry from the way the first three games of the tournament went, with points coming in bunches and the U.S. winning every game by at least 27 points.

"It's good for us to get one of these games," Reaves said.

Montenegro had a game plan and worked it nearly to perfection: Slow the Americans down by any means necessary—"our only hope," Vucevic said. That included well-timed substitutions, sprinting back on defense, whatever it took.

The Americans know they'll see more of that going forward.

"We've got to get stops and get rebounds so we can't go against a set defense every time," Edwards said. "If they set their defense, they're going to pack the paint, load up and make us shoot. And I shot terrible from the outside today. I don't know what's going on but I'll figure it out."

He figured it out only once from long range Friday, but it was a big moment. Edwards' only 3-pointer came with 6:07 left, putting the U.S. up 69-62. It stayed a two-possession game, at least, for much of the remainder of the contest.

"A small country like Montenegro, we played tonight maybe one of the best games ever," Montenegro coach Bosko Radovic said. "We played such a good team."

Palacios homers in 9th as Pirates beat Cardinals 7-6 for 5th straight win

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Josh Palacios hit a pinch hit home run off Drew VerHagen in the top of the ninth inning to help the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the St. Louis Cardinals 7-6 for their fifth straight win.

VerHagen (4-1) entered the game with one out in the ninth inning and hit Andrew McCutchen before Palacios, pinch hitting for Connor Joe, hit a 3-1 pitch into the right field seats for his seventh home run of the season.

Jordan Walker, Lars Nootbaar and Tyler O'Neill all homered for the Cardinals.

Cody Bolton (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth inning for his first major league win, and David Bednar surrendered a single to Tommy Edman and hit Walker with a pitch before retiring Masyn Winn, Nootbaar and Paul Goldschmidt for his 31st save.

AP

Pittsburgh Pirates' Joshua Palacios rounds the bases after hitting a two-run home run during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023, in St. Louis.

ATHLETICS 2, ANGELS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Brent Rooker hit his team-leading 23rd home run, Paul Blackburn pitched five innings for his second victory in six starts, and last-place Oakland beat Shohei Ohtani and Los Angeles.

Blackburn (4-4) allowed four hits and one run with four strikeouts, raising his season total to a career-high 90. Five relievers followed Blackburn and combined for four innings of two-hit ball, with Trevor May getting the final three outs for his 16th save.

Mike Moustakas had two hits for the Angels while Luis Rengifo extended his hitting streak to 10 games, matching his career high. Northern California native Kyren Paris got his first major league hit, a day after making his debut with Los Angeles.

Ohtani, the two-way Japanese star facing a possible second Tommy John surgery, leads the majors with 44 home runs but went 0 for 2 with three walks — two intentional.

Griffin Canning (7-5) struck out seven but allowed four hits and two runs in six innings for the Angels.

YANKEES 5, ASTROS 4

HOUSTON (AP)—Aaron Judge homered for the second consecutive game and the New York Yankees got a big effort from their bullpen.

Michael Brantley hit his first home run since June 2022 for the Astros, who fell a game behind first-place Seattle in the AL West. Brantley had a two-run shot in the second inning and scored on Yainer Diaz's two-run homer in the fourth.

After starter Luis Severino lasted only four innings, three New York relievers combined to throw shutout ball the rest of the way.

Jhony Brito, Wandy Peralta and Clay Holmes posted zeros the rest of the night.

Jhony Brito (6-6), a rookie who has a 1.27 ERA out of the bullpen this season, started the fifth and faced the minimum over 3 2/3 innings. Clay Holmes allowed a two-out infield single in the ninth, but froze pinch-hitter Jon Singleton with a 1-2 sinker to lock down his 17th save.

Hunter Brown (10-10) allowed five runs, three earned, over four-plus innings to go with four walks and five strikeouts.

GUARDIANS 7, RAYS 6, 11 INNINGS

CLEVELAND (AP)—Steven Kwan hit a sacrifice fly to bring home Bo Naylor with the winning run after Jose Tena tied the score with a single in the 11th inning to lift Cleveland.

Rays center fielder Jose Siri had an opportunity to cut down Naylor at the plate but his throw sailed wide and Chris Devenski (3-3) took the loss in his first appearance with the team.

Tampa Bay, which has a commanding lead atop the AL wild-card standings, lost for just the third time in its last 11 games. The Rays trail Baltimore by two games in the East.

Brandon Lowe gave Tampa Bay a 6-5 lead in the top of the 11th with a sacrifice fly off Sam Hentges (3-2).

REDS 2, CUBS 1

CINCINNATI (AP)—Elly De La Cruz hit a tying single and newcomer Hunter Renfroe beat out a double-play ball to drive in the winner as Cincinnati rallied past Chicago with two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning for the second straight night.

In a matchup of National League playoff contenders, Javier Assad pitched a season-high eight shutout innings and Jeimer Candelario launched his career-best 20th homer to help the Cubs take a 1-0 lead into the ninth.

Jake Fraley led off with a double and the Reds loaded the bases against Mark Leiter Jr. (1-3) with nobody out before scoring twice to win it.

Sam Moll (1-3) worked a hitless inning for the victory.

In the second game of Friday's doubleheader, the Reds erased a 2-1 deficit in the ninth against Cubs closer Adbert Alzolay to earn a split.

MARINERS 8, METS 7

NEW YORK (AP)—J.P. Crawford led off the ninth inning with a tiebreaking homer and Seattle beat New York to extend its slim lead in the AL West.

Crawford connected off Adam Ottavino (1-5) for the Mariners, who squandered a four-run lead but still improved to 39-16 since July 1—the best record in the majors during that span.

Seattle moved a game ahead of second-place Houston in the division standings.

Justin Topa (5-4) got the final four outs for the Mariners. He gave up two hits in the ninth, but Daniel Vogelbach was thrown out trying to stretch a leadoff single.

Teoscar Hernandez homered and finished with three RBIs. Pinch-hitter Dominic Canzone had a two-run homer and Julio Rodríguez hit an RBI triple.

Jeff McNeil finished a homer shy of the cycle for the Mets and tied the game with a run-scoring triple in the eighth. DJ Stewart hit a three-run shot—his ninth homer in the last 15 games. Francisco Lindor and Mark Vientos also went deep.

BRAVES 4, DODGERS 2, 10 INNINGS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ronald Acuña Jr. homered for the third straight night at Dodger Stadium and Orlando Arcia hit a three-run shot in the 10th inning that sent streaking Atlanta to a victory over Los Angeles.

Bryce Elder pitched six effective innings and the Braves (90-45) won their sixth consecutive game, becoming the first major league club to reach 90 wins this season.

Acuña once again outshined Dodgers star Mookie Betts in their chase for NL MVP.

In the third inning, Acuña launched a 454-foot homer to center field that came off his bat like a rocket at an astounding 121.2 mph. It was the 32nd homer this year and third of the series for Acuña, the first player in big league history with 30 home runs and 60 stolen bases in a season.

In the 10th, Sean Murphy drew a two-out walk from Alex Vesia (0-5) to put two runners on. Arcia drove the next pitch to left-center to give Atlanta a 4-1 lead.

ROCKIES 8, BLUE JAYS 7

DENVER (AP)—Brenton Doyle hit a three-run triple in a four-run fifth inning, Charlie Blackmon had three hits and three RBIs on his bobblehead night, and Colorado beat Toronto.

Doyle's two-out triple gave the Rockies a 7-5 lead and Blackmon followed with an RBI single as the Rockies broke a four-game losing streak and won for just the second time in their last 12 games.

Kevin Kiermaier homered and Whit Merrifield and Santiago Espinal had two hits apiece for the Blue Jays, who remained 1 1/2 games behind Texas for the third AL wild card. Toronto had won four of six.

George Springer walked to open the ninth for Toronto and Davis Schneider tripled off Justin Lawrence as the Jays closed to 8-6. Lawrence got Vladimir Guerrero Jr. on a short fly out and struck out Merrifield before Schneider scored on a wild pitch. Alejandro Kirk and Cavan Biggio walked and Daulton Varsho was hit on a 1-1 pitch to load the bases. Tyler Kinley replaced Lawrence and struck out pinch-hitter Spencer Horwitz for his first save in two chances.

The Blue Jays scored four runs on six hits in the first inning, and Kiermaier's seventh homer leading off the second made it 5-0 against Colorado left-hander Ty Blach (2-1), who gave up only two singles after that homer and pitched six innings.

BREWERS 7, PHILLIES 5

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Carlos Santana had a two-run homer, Mark Canha doubled twice and Milwaukee withstood a late comeback attempt to beat Philadelphia.

The Phillies lost their third straight even though Trea Turner tied a franchise record by homering in a fifth consecutive game. Kyle Schwarber led off the game with a homer for the second straight night and J.T. Realmuto also went deep.

The Phillies had runners on third and second in the ninth when Devin Williams struck out Turner swinging at a 3-2 pitch to end the game and earn his 32nd save in 36 opportunities.

Milwaukee's William Contreras, Brice Turang and Andruw Monasterio had two hits each as the Brewers extended their NL Central lead to 4 1/2 games over the Chicago Cubs.

Andrew Chafin (3-3) earned the win with one inning of scoreless relief.

TWINS 9, RANGERS 7, 10 INNINGS

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Carlos Correa and Max Kepler had RBI singles in the 10th inning, leadoff hitter Donovan Solano matched a career high with four hits, and AL Central-leading Minnesota beat Texas.

Correa and Kepler got their hits off hard-throwing reliever Aroldis Chapman (5-4), who got the last two outs of the ninth before coming back out for the 10th. Ryan Jeffers added a sacrifice fly, his second RBI of the game, after Chapman was gone.

Brent Headrick (3-0), the eighth Twins pitcher, tossed a perfect ninth. Jhoan Duran finished it for his 24th save in 29 chances, working around an RBI single by Robbie Grossman in the 10th.

Solano had a solo homer and a two-run single when the Twins, after being behind 4-0, went ahead 6-4. He was then playing second base in the eighth when he had a tremendous running catch in short right with his back to the infield, preventing another run right after Texas had tied the game.

ORIOLES 7, DIAMONDBACKS 3

PHOENIX (AP)—Cedric Mullins started a six-run fourth inning with a three-run blast, Kyle Bradish threw six solid innings and Baltimore beat Arizona end a two-game skid

Adley Rutschman hit his 17th homer of the season, a solo shot in the seventh inning, and added an RBI single as the Orioles improved to an AL-best 84-51 for the season.

Bradish (10-6) gave up two runs on four hits over six innings, walking three and striking out six. It was the right-hander's fourth consecutive quality start.

Slade Cecconi (0-1) gave up six runs on nine hits over 3 1/3 innings. Ketel Marte had two of the D-backs' five hits. Gabriel Moreno hit a solo homer in the ninth.

RED SOX 9, ROYALS 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Triston Casas hit a two-run homer and Alex Verdugo finished a homer short of hitting for the cycle as Boston beat Kansas City.

Six Boston batters drove in a run and all but one Red Sox starter had a hit. Boston snapped a five-game skid with the win after allowing four runs for the 12th time in 13 games.

Tanner Houck (4-8) worked five innings and allowed four runs and seven hits while walking one and striking out five.

Royals starter Alec March (0-8) was knocked out of the game early after allowing six runs on seven hits. He walked two and struck out one in 2 ⅔ innings.

Kansas City has lost 11 of its last 13 games.

PADRES 6, GIANTS 1

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Blake Snell lowered his major league-leading ERA from 2.60 to 2.50 and struck out eight in six scoreless innings, and Juan Soto, Xander Bogaerts, Gary Sanchez and Garrett Cooper homered to carry San Diego.

Snell (12-9), who won the AL Cy Young Award while with Tampa Bay in 2018, is building a case to become the sixth player to win the trophy in both leagues. He has 201 strikeouts, the most in a single-season by a Padres left-hander and the second time he's had more than 200.

Snell held the Giants to three hits and allowed two baserunners in each of his final two innings but got through unscathed.

MARLINS 11, NATIONALS 5

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jake Burger hit two of Miami's four home runs, Johnny Cueto struck out four in his return from a viral infection and the Marlins won their third straight.

Jesús Sánchez and Bryan De La Cruz each hit a three-run home run off Washington starter Trevor Williams (6-9). Burger's two gave him 30 homers this season and five since arriving in a trade Aug. 1 from the Chicago White Sox.

Cueto (1-3) allowed two solo home runs in five-plus innings, including one to Lane Thomas in the sixth that ended his afternoon after allowing three earned runs on 77 pitches.

De La Cruz and NL-batting leader Luis Arraez each went 4 for 5. Arraez, making a rare start at first base, picked up his first four-hit game since July 15 to raise his average to .355.

TIGERS 10, WHITE SOX 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Andre Lipcius' first hit in the major leagues was a two-run homer in a four-run first inning, Miguel Cabrera had four hits and three RBIs and rookie Reese Olson pitched seven scoreless innings as Detroit routed Chicago.

Spencer Torkelson went 3 for 4 with a pair of doubles, two RBIs and two runs scored. Kerry Carpenter and Akil Baddoo added three hits apiece as Detroit pounded out 18 total hits in its third straight win.

Olson (3-6) struck out one and allowed just four singles to listless Chicago in his longest of 15 starts this season.

Carlos Alcaraz's variety makes it tough to choose shots at the US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Ever since Carlos Alcaraz was 12 or so—OK, not forever ago, considering he's still just 20—he made sure variety was a key element of his game.

Back then, he explained, there were so many options at his disposal that he might encounter a bit of trouble figuring out which to employ. And, he acknowledged, that can even be the case to this day.

Alcaraz was by no means perfect during a 6-2, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 victory over the 26th-seeded Dan Evans in the U.S. Open's third round on Saturday—there was that wayward set, after all—but the defending champion produced enough moments of brilliance to keep himself smiling and his many fans in New York roaring in approval.

To hear the No. 1-seeded Alcaraz explain it, "a lot of different" possibilities enter his mind in the midst of a point—"the dropshot, big forehand, go to the net, multiple things"—before he selects which stroke to try. It can make things "difficult" on occasion, he said.

"Most of the time, I find the right one," the Spaniard said, "but sometimes I struggle to hit good shots because of that."

His opponent in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Saturday noticed.

"If anything, he probably plays too many shots," Evans said. "He let me out of jail a few times playing the wrong shot, which was good for me."

But there also were those "How did he do that?!" highlights that Alcaraz conjures up with frequency.

One in particular helped swing Saturday's match his way for good. Evans was seemingly in control of what would become a 12-stroke point, sending Alcaraz scrambling to his left for a defensive backhand. On his follow-through, Alcaraz stumbled a bit, nearly tumbling to the blue court. But he gathered himself and quickly switched direction, sprinting to his right with seven lengthy strides before sliding wide of the doubles alley as he flicked a down-the-line forehand.

The ball caught the back of the baseline for a winner that converted a break point for a 4-2 edge in the fourth set. Evans chucked his racket toward the bottom of the net, grimaced and placed his hands on his hips. Alcaraz raised his arms, using his left index finger to make a "No. 1" gesture.

"Took the wind out my sails," Evans said.

So what's it like to play Alcaraz?

"I'm not sure you know—well, I definitely didn't know—what's, sort of, coming next," Evans said. "And that, sort of, sets you on the back foot and (makes it) difficult to anticipate."

Less than 12 hours after the man he's expected to meet next weekend for the title, Novak Djokovic, needed to overturn a two-set deficit to win in a match that ended a tad after 1:30 a.m. on Saturday, Alcaraz progressed to the fourth round at Flushing Meadows for the third consecutive year.

"I watched the first two sets, then I had to go to sleep," said Alcaraz, who won his second Grand Slam title by edging Djokovic in the Wimbledon final in July. "But when I (went) to bed, I was thinking, 'Novak is going to come back, that's for sure.'"

Alcaraz improved to 14-1 over his nascent career in New York and is trying to become the first man to win two titles in a row in New York since Roger Federer took five straight from 2004-08.

"I would love to be part of tournament history with Roger," Alcaraz said. "That's my main goal right now."

Matches Monday that will put the winner in the quarterfinals include No. 3 Daniil Medvedev, who won a second straight late-night match, against No. 13 Alex de Minaur; No. 8 Andrey Rublev against Jack Draper, a 21-year-old left-hander from Britain who has never been this far at a major, and No. 6 Jannik Sinner against No. 12 Alexander Zverev.

The women's fourth round will feature No. 3 Jessica Pegula against 2017 U.S. Open runner-up Madison Keys in an all-American contest, No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka against No. 13 Daria Kasatkina, No. 5 Ons Jabeur against No. 23 Zheng Qinwen, and No. 9 Marketa Vondrousova against unseeded American Peyton Stearns.

Sabalenka—who won the Australian Open in January and can overtake Iga Swiatek at No. 1 in the WTA rankings depending on their results at the U.S. Open—defeated Clara Burel and has dropped a total of just 12 games through three matches so far.

Alcaraz's next foe is Matteo Arnaldi, a 22-year-old from Italy who is ranked 61st. Arnaldi, who had won a grand total of one Grand Slam match before this tournament, reached the fourth round by eliminating No. 16 seed Cameron Norrie of Britain 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

"First time in the second week of a Slam. First time playing the world's No. 1 player," Arnaldi said. "I'm new on the circuit, so they're all new matchups—for me, but also for them."

And if he were to take on Alcaraz in 23,000-seat Ashe?

"I've only seen it from the outside. I've never been inside still," Arnaldi said. "So if that's where I happen to play, maybe I will take a walk around near the court beforehand."

AP

Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, reacts after defeating Daniel Evans, of the United Kingdom, during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023, in New York.

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a fielding error. Tenorio proceeded to strike out the next two batters.

Tenorio continued shutting down the Braves' offense by striking out the side in the third inning—and once more in the fourth inning. Everything pivoted to the Braves' favor as limited by the pitch count, the Toros had to make a pitching change.

Ben Lizama took over for Tenorio and that was when the Braves' offense turned around. With a little help from the Toros' shoddy defense, the Braves scored three consecutive runs by Kayden Lizama, Don Ray, and Dylan Barcinas in the fifth inning to tie up the game.

In a later interview with the hero of the game, Norita said his walk off hit "felt good. I thought I was going to miss that but I hit it. Thank you to my team, my brother [Antonio Norita], and my dad [Ned Norita] for teaching me baseball. It was a good day."

The 12-year-old said he's been waiting for a chance to play baseball and he finally had the chance with this tournament. "I'm just glad I got to play," said the Tanapag Middle School student.

He described the finals game as "kind of scary, but it was good." He acknowledged that the Toros were a good team overall.

As for head coach Ian Norita, who is the cousin of Aiken, he said of the game, "They had us in the first half, but I told the boys to just remain calm. The pitcher for the Toros was really good—he was throwing real heat, but I just told the boys to 'relax, your time will come' and their time did come."

He said their strategy being down by three runs in the fifth inning was just to go up and hit. "I just told everybody that they're going to get a hit—and they got a hit." With the walk off hit by Aiken, he said, "Oh I knew that was going to happen. We were gonna walk off no matter what. It was one down and we had our third batter up and they were hungry, so I knew it was going to happen. Thankfully it did."

When asked if the Toros pitching change contributed to the Braves' offense turning on later in the game, Ian Norita said, "Of course. The starting pitcher was really good. Props to Patrick Tenorio. You're teaching your son really [well], my brother."

As for the tournament and bringing baseball back to the youth after about five years, Ian Norita said, "I want to say thank you very much to the SBL and the tournament team. The boys have been practicing so, so hard and they really wanted to play. So, thank you to them. We're waiting for the next tournament. We'll be ready." Ian Norita was thankful the weather turned out great for them to be able to finish their game without rain.

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three-over 75 after 15 pars and three bogeys.

Santos scored a par on holes No. 1-3, No. 5-6, No. 8-12, and No. 14-18. He hit the bogeys in holes No. 4, No. 7, and No. 13.

Second place went to Joshua Atalig with a gross score of 75 and third place was Joseph Muna with a gross score of 77.

The Marianas Alliance for Nongovernmental Organizations finance manager said that, with the bogeys, "They were just short punts that I couldn't make go in." As everything else was pars and he didn't hit a birdie, his "game today was to play for pars and I guess it worked out," he said.

Santos was also the volunteer tournament director and helped tabulate the scores. Of his initial reaction to finding out he won, he said, "When I was tabulating the scores and I saw that I was tied and when I was doing the scorecard playoff and when I realized that I won, I was surprised because I didn't know a par would win it."

He didn't expect to win and he thought he was going to come in second or third place with the scores he was finishing with—but with the scorecard playoff and making a par, it helped him win the championship.

About the competition, the Refaluwasch Golf Association member said, "The course was really wet. If you didn't know what kind of shot to play, you wouldn't get the positive outcome in your next shot. So, when I played today, I always tried to play for the green and two putts—so I guess that's what made today possible for me to win the championship flight."

He gave a shoutout to the winners as most of them are members of the RGA.

A golfer of 13 years, Santos said he hopes to make the cut for the CNMI National Golf team for the 2023 Pacific Games this November as he might miss two of the qualifiers. He said he needs to place on top of the next two qualifiers that he attends.

The Top 3 all received a bottle of wine from D&Q while Santos received $300, Atalig received $200, and Muna got $100.

Proceeds of the tournament will go to the education work of the non-profit organization Marianas Tourism Education Council, which focuses on community outreach and school tourism MY WAVE Clubs. MTEC marks its 22nd anniversary this year.

The sponsors of the event were LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Joeten Motors, Triple J, IT&E, Top Shelf Wine/Spirits Saipan, Bank of Guam, Bridge Capital LLC., RNV Construction, Island Training Solutions, Hawaiian Rock Products, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, 103.9 KZMI, MarPac, Tinian Diamond, KSPN2, Magic 100FM, Joeten Superstore, Marianas Variety, Saipan Advertising, Saipan Shipping Co., Century Insurance, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Power 99, WESTCO, KKMP, JG Sablan Ice & Water Inc., Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Mobil, Coral Ocean Resort Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Pacific Islands Club, D&Q, Pizza Hut, Wushin Gas, HANMI, 3HiRes, I Love Saipan, Godfather's, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Saipan Ice & Water Co., Napu Brewing Co., and Skydive Saipan.

Results of the other flights will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

U15

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half, but played better defense in the second after yielding only one goal in the second half.

"The first game is always the hardest. Even more so for this particular group as [the] majority of them have never played in an international competition. Still, the team pushed through and the bits and pieces of their months of consistent training came into play. Mongolian players are physically stronger and much faster than us, but our team worked hard collectively to stop their attacks and as the game progressed, Mongolia struggled to hit the back of our net. By the end of the second half, they were only able to score 1 goal, a testament to how disciplined and collective the boys played," team manager Mikky Vargas said.

About their second game, "Coaches could not be [prouder] of how the boys played better in the second game and were able to score two goals. The last two games will be tougher, but the boys will fight all the way to the end," said Vargas.

Results of their Sept. 3 game against South Korea and Sept. 4 game against China will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

Germany, Slovenia, US, and Lithuania make Basketball World Cup quarterfinals.

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Sports

Palacios homers in 9th as Pirates beat Cardinals 7-6 for 5th straight win.

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Undefeated Braves rally, walk off by Norita steals U12 champs from Toros

LEIGH GASES

The undefeated Braves team pose for a group photo after they won the championship game of the Saipan Baseball League U12 Baseball Tournament in an exciting walk off fashion against the Toros, 4-3 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan softball field last Saturday morning.

LEIGH GASES

Braves' Dayton Marchadesch whoops in celebration after scoring the fourth run, thanks to Aiken Norita's clutch walk off single during the championship game of the Saipan Baseball League U12 Baseball Tournament at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan softball field last Saturday morning.

LEIGH GASES

Seconds before becoming a hero, Braves' Aiken Norita readies to uncoil a swing that delivers the clutch walk off single, which snagged the championship from the once leading Toros, 4-3, in the finals of the Saipan Baseball League U12 Baseball Tournament at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan softball field last Saturday morning.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The undefeated Braves held on to their unblemished record as—down by three runs heading into the fifth inning—they rallied and, with a clutch single that found the gap by Aiken Norita in their last at-bat, stole the championship away from the Toros, 4-3, in an exciting finish to the Saipan Baseball League U12 Baseball Tournament on a sunny Saturday morning at a fully packed Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan softball field in Susupe.

Tied at three apiece at the bottom of the last inning, the Braves could taste victory as a walk off hit by any of their batters was imminent. Pitcher Dayton Marchadesch led things off with a single and then proceeded to steal second base. In perfect scoring position, a passed ball by the Toros gifted him third base with just one out.

Toros' Caleb Cabrera delivered what was to be the final pitch of the tourney—and with just one swing of the bat, Braves' Aiken Norita hit the go-ahead single that brought in Marchadesch for the championship win.

To begin the game, Toros' star utility player Leighton Tenorio, was the starting pitcher and struck out the side in the first inning. He then helped his cause as he scored the first run in their at-bat, followed by another run by Caleb Cabrera to make it a 2-0 game.

Tenorio continued his dominance on the mound as only one runner—Don Ray Barcinas—got on base due to

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U15 national soccer team is 0-2 in EAFF champs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI U15 Men's National Soccer Team that is in Qingdao, China for the FIFA Forward Developmental Programme EAFF U15 Men's Championship 2023, has settled for two losses so far in the four-game tourney.

After they drew a blank, 0-4 defeat against Mongolia in Group A last Friday, the NMI team regrouped and drew first blood in the second game against Macau last Saturday.

Although they still lost, 2-5, Paul Anthony Lizama put the NMI team on the board early in the 4th minute of the game to make it 1-0. Macau bounced back and equalized the game 1-1 a few minutes later, but Lizama, with a powerful and long shot, made it 2-1 as it flew over the goalie's arms.

However, Macau came back with a vengeance and scored four in the last half as they silenced NMI for the win.

In their debut game last Friday at the Qingdao Baisha Bay Football Centre, the NMI gave up three early goals in the first

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EAFF

NMI U15 Men's National Soccer Team forward Paul Anthony Lizama, left, tries to dribble past Mongolia defenders during their first game in Group A of the FIFA Forward Developmental Programme EAFF U15 Men's Championship 2023 in Qingdao China last Friday.

Flightless Santos tops MTEC Golf Classic

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Franco Santos had a birdie-less round but parred enough holes to win the Championship Flight of the 2023 Marianas Tourism Education Council Golf Classic last Saturday morning in the greens of the Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

In a scorecard playoff, the tie breaking hole was No. 10—which was the second lowest handicap hole—as the NMI National Golf Team hopeful shot a gross score of

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LEIGH GASES

From left, Franco Santos, the first-place winner of the Championship Flight, poses with third placer Joseph Muna, and Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente during the awards ceremony of the 2023 MTEC Golf Classic at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort last Saturday.